

Ne dealy start on tofect satellite broadcasting

TELEVISION

The Government has decided in principle that Britain should start its early start with direct broadcasting by satellite (DBS) with the aim of having a service in operation in 1985. Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said in a statement in the Commons. It has concluded that because of the importance of making this early start the best course would be to have two channels initially.

Mr Whitelaw said: The House will recall the report of the Home Office study of DBS published last May. Reaction to that report has been largely constructive and positive. The Government now sees a need for early decisions if industry is to be encouraged, which DBS offers this country are to be grasped in good time, in a situation in which there will be keen international competition.

The Government has therefore decided, in principle, that this country should make an early start with DBS, while the rest of the world is still in the early stages of having a service in operation in 1986. Because of the importance of making this early start the Government has decided that the best course would be to have a start with two channels initially; the number of channels could be increased up to the maximum of five channels permitted by international allocation, as and when demand justified it.

The services would be transmitted at powers sufficient to permit both individual reception and community reception with the distribution of the signal to make a further announcement shortly about the future role of cable.

On the financial side, the Government expects the capital cost of providing the satellite system to be found in the private sector.

On the industrial side, various interests in the aerospace and related industries have shown that they are ready to play their part in this challenging new venture and we shall be working closely with them and with the domestic electronics industry to ensure that the economic benefits are effectively realized for the United Kingdom.

On the broadcasting side, it is clear that DBS must develop in a way that is consistent with our existing broadcasting arrangements, especially as regards the distribution of the signal, the authority and maintenance of proper programme standards.

Staining a problem for pet food

QUESTIONS

The Government would be supporting a Bill to increase penalties for trading in unfit meat. Mrs Peggy Fenner, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said.

Mr Norman Atkinson (Haringey, Lab) asked: What representations have been received from the pet food industry in regard to the staining of meat?

Mrs Fenner: Representatives of the pet food industry have indicated that they would not be opposed to a requirement to stain meat, but they are concerned about the cost of staining meat (but not offals) emanating from slaughterhouses.

They have also commented on the type of stain which might be appropriate for this purpose.

Mr Atkinson: The House will be delighted with that positive response from the industry. It is aware that although dogs are colour blind and therefore unable to distinguish between green and violet, any suggested staining proposals should take account of that many pet owners could object to putting out violet or green coloured food for their pets.

Can the reassurance pet owners that whatever the stain used, it may be decolourised by the pet food industry?

Mrs Fenner: We are considering what stain should be prescribed and we are taking account of the views of the pet food manufacturers that they would like the stain to be one which disappears when the meat is heat treated and therefore does not give an unacceptable appearance to the pet food. But we shall certainly see the stain is immediately decolourised on new meat.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab): Has she had a chance to see the letter from a worker at Heathrow in regard to the illegal transportation of meat via Bombay and Bahrain? Is she prepared to take action to stop this illegal action is stopped?

Mrs Fenner: The Government is most concerned that trade in unfit meat should be stopped. We are preparing meat sterilization regulations with a degree of urgency in order to stop any illegal trade in unfit meat and we shall be supporting his Bill to increase the penalties for these offences.

Bills remove barriers to marriage

HOUSE OF LORDS

Two personal Bills, the object of which was to enable people related by marriage but not by blood to marry, received a second reading in the House of Lords.

The first, the John Francis Dore and Gillian Dore (Marriage Enabling) Bill, was introduced by Lady Wootton of Abinger (Lab) who recalled that in the past three years four Bills had been presented to the House which had sought to enlarge the scope of relationships within which it was permissible to marry, particularly those who were connected by marriage but not by blood.

John Dore, aged 66, and Gillian Dore, aged 49, wished to marry but were unable to do so because of the law which prevented a stepfather and stepdaughter marrying.

Lord Elyne-Jones, for the Opposition, said that this was a matter which required the intervention of the House of Lords in the interests of compassion and decent human relationships, to remove the legal impediment to marriage of these two petitioners which imposed hardship upon them and served no purpose of public policy.

The Bishop of London (the Rt Rev Graham Leonard) said it was accepted that it was in loco parentis to him. They were mature adults of equal age and there was no ethical, moral, religious or social objection to marriage between them. Such a marriage would be for their common good and that of their two daughters.

Both Bills were read a second time.

The Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Bill was read the third time and passed.

It was widely recognized that the personal Bill procedure left something to be desired.

In the second case, the Hugh Small and Norma Small (Marriage Enabling) Bill, Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran (Lab) who moved the Bill, said that the object was to enable the couple to be married although they were related by marriage. There were no ties of blood.

Technically, Hugh was the stepson of Norma, but at no time had she ever stood in loco parentis to him. They were mature adults of equal age and there was no ethical, moral, religious or social objection to marriage between them. Such a marriage would be for their common good and that of their two daughters.

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Thatcher: S Africa tour a mistake

PM'S QUESTIONS

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, endorsed at question time what Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, had said about the South African cricket tour by England cricketers, perhaps being a mistake. She said she was not in a position to say whether the tour was a mistake or not.

Mr Jack Straw (Blackburn, Lab): Her mealy-mouthed, half-hearted fence-sitting comments in this House are a disgrace. I cannot see that that should be necessary. Sir Paul Bryan (Hove, Con): At the time of the Broadcasting Bill, the Government's policy was to increase the choice of programmes by increasing the number of sources from which those programmes came. Is he reversing that policy?

Mr Whitelaw: The Government is not reversing anything. The BBC have put forward their detailed proposals far ahead of anyone else. They are in a position to sign up with those who will provide the hardware and we believe it is in the country's interests that they should do so.

Mr Frank Fraser (Stafford and Stone, Con): The Government's transmission arrangements are as important as the statement.

Mr Whitelaw: I agree. The development of DBS and cable go hand in hand. There is no statement on cable before we have the debate in the House.

Mr Kenneth Warren (Hastings, Con): To limit the service to two channels from the start by decree denies the opportunity to expand as fast as is commercially possible. There should be no technical barrier to more channels should not be available and therefore more companies come forward and make the whole system flourish.

Mr Whitelaw: We believe it is right to make a modest start to get ahead of our competitors. If we can move further and faster forward we will do so.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab): Can he guarantee that he will not be making Lord Rees-Mogg, head of this quango?

Mr Michael Morris (Northampton, South, Con): In discussion with the BBC, the Government is not just existing TV companies that are considered? There might be a whole spectrum of other commercial interests to be taken into account.

Mr Whitelaw: If we are to make an immediate start and sign up a consortium, it is only the BBC at the present time which is able to do it.

Mr Robert Kilroy-Glik (Ormskirk, Lab): Can she not just condemn the tour? Without any equivocation, does she agree with what the Foreign Secretary said on the matter and repudiate the cricket tour?

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Foot cannot have been listening. I endorsed Lord Carrington's statement in my last reply.

Mr Robert Kilroy-Glik (Ormskirk, Lab): Can she not just condemn the tour? Without any equivocation, does she agree with what the Foreign Secretary said on the matter and repudiate the cricket tour?

Mrs Thatcher: I have answered so many questions. I have nothing to add to the answers I have previously given.

Mr James Wellbeloved (Buxley, Epsom and Epsom, SDP): Has she noted the double standards of those who pay lip service to the condemnation of the Soviet invasion and occupation of Afghanistan? Will she avoid making the same error by clearly condemning those who have offended people's decency by taking their cricket tour to South Africa?

Mrs Thatcher: I have endeavoured to apply the same rules. We try to discuss people from going to South Africa. I think we are contrary to the Gleneagles agreement or, in the case of Afghanistan, have given the Soviet Union a double standard. We have tried to dissuade them in both cases. Our only powers are powers of persuasion. People are free to decide for themselves.

When next week's business was being considered, Mr Foot said some of the questions which were informally agreed last October, and of the particular countries whose boots were responsible for the most serious of these offences?

Mr Buchanan-Smith: I have indeed and I regard as thoroughly unsatisfactory the way some of these proposed quotas have been decided by particular countries.

The Government has made its view perfectly clear on this to the EEC Commission and the underlines that if we are going to have effective conservation we must have it on an internationally agreed basis and internationally enforced.

Dutch subsidies

Mr Peter Walker, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said that he was expecting — perhaps this coming week — an agreement which he hoped would be permanent on Dutch fishing subsidies to horticulturists about which British growers have been complaining. If agreement was not reached, the EEC Council of Agriculture Ministers on March 15, he said, legal action would be taken against the Dutch.

Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Timetable motion on the Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Bill, Canada Bill, third reading. Tuesday: Travel Concessions (London) Bill and Administration of Justice Bill, second readings. Wednesday: Debate on the national health service. Thursday: Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, committee, first day.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' motions on unemployment in Kent and on test-tube babies.



Wellbeloved: Double standards

interest charges, it means the cost of the national debt goes up £1,000 per annum.

Mr Thatcher: I wholly agree if there were to be an increase in expenditure of that amount to be met by the borrowing requirement interest rates would go up sharply indeed.

I cannot precisely confirm his figures, but I share his general view and would point out that the payments of interest on debt have gone up enormously. They were about £2,000m in 1979. This year they will be £15,000m which is higher than we spend either on the national health or education services.

Thatcher silent on M15 computer

The Prime Minister refused to be drawn into answering questions about an M15 computer, saying that it was a long hallowed practice not to comment in the Commons on security matters.

Mr Michael Winstick (Walsall, North, Lab): A Government statement is necessary on the cricket tour to South Africa because of the Prime Minister's shameful refusal to condemn the tour.

We need to know from Mrs Thatcher her real views and if she endorses the sentiments of the cricket tour, we need to know what she has to say about it.

Mr Pym: I have nothing to add to what has been said today.

Cheaper oil is good news for industry

The reduction in the price of North Sea oil by 54 pence a barrel was good news for industry because it would lower industrial costs and help to reduce inflation, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said.

Mr Winston Churchill (Stratford, Con) congratulated her on taking the initiative among the oil producing nations to procure a sharp downward trend in oil prices.

This provides not only Great Britain but the western industrialised world (he said) with the good news of a lower cost of the vicious economic circle of recent years into what Isma Macleod called the vicious circle in which lower inflation leads to economic expansion, generating greater resources and savings which in turn lead to lower inflation.

Mrs Thatcher: It is also good news for increasing world trade as money which would otherwise have been spent on oil will now be available for the purchase of other goods, and our industry is in a good position to take advantage of that expansion.

After these questions, she said: We should hope that from the recent fall in oil prices we are in a position to try to get some expansion and to continue our policy of supporting and encouraging development of new industries and expanding small business.

She said that a £9,000m refinery budget next week, next year the PSBR would go up by £6,000m which would increase the deficit and would hurt industry, jobs and the rest. For every one point increase in

High awards by wage councils anger firms

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, has written to two wage councils drawing their attention to the anger among a number of small businesses at the size of the wage awards made at the end of the year.

Mr John Townsend (Bridlington, Con) said there was a growing concern among small businesses at the reluctance of the Government to reform or abolish wage councils.

Coal's future lies in expanded markets

more than offset by falls in NCB's sales and a corresponding increase in stocks.

The industry's main problem must be the competitive pricing of supply. The board needed to demonstrate potential and its commitment to resources available to it, and of particular to ensure its investment projects were sound.

Mr Alexander Eadie, an Opposition spokesman (Midlothian, Lab) said the delay in the development of the Vale of Belvoir in North East Leicestershire had reached the proportions of a national scandal. The Government should make an announcement to go ahead not in the interests of the miners but also those of the future economic recovery of the country.

There had been a propaganda effort by Mr Ronald Butt, the Tory columnist, who was vilifying the industry for its failure to expand its markets and to find new ones, and to supply them with coal at competitive prices. There was a lot more which could be done, especially in the industrial market. Coal did not have a monopoly; it had to compete with other fuels.

There were further possibilities in the longer term — the supply of feedstock for chemical plants and other markets.

Fit closures were inevitable in an extractive industry. However, providing the industry could secure the opportunities for growth which were available to it, there would be a corresponding need for opening new capacity at both new and existing mines.

This was the pattern which the industry had followed, and it was clear that the coal industry was a lot more than a simple commodity. The effect on the board's financial results of the improvement in productivity had been

impression most of it came from the objects. In fact those who spoke in favour of development were not speaking from a position of ignorance. The Energy, the European Energy Commission, the CEEB, and the two county councils involved.

Mr Butt claimed 4,000 properties would be lost as a result of subsidence damage. Expert evidence based on the experience of other coal fields suggested two-thirds of all properties would be affected at all and only 100 would suffer anything more than slight damage.

Some new railway buildings would be necessary but the only development within the vale would be the reinstatement of track on a disused line. These would be no permanent loss of agricultural land as a result of waste disposal from the mines as only 3 per cent of the total land would be affected.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) said that interest rates were too high and that the Government was giving the coal industry. The Government was not giving the industry anything but was just hanging back around its neck.

It was a tragedy when subsidies were being given to the coal industry in the Common Market that the Government was not giving any opportunity for the industry to breathe and compete with Germany, France and Belgium.

Mr Michael Welch (Don Valley, Lab) said greater efforts should be made to export coal, particularly to Third World countries.

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Rate grants system in inner London damages Tories

By David Walker

Renewed criticism of the grant system devised by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, is certain, after the announcement by Conservative controlled councils in inner London of rates in excess of 10 per cent in 1982-83. That compares with the 17 per cent figure for the commercial rate increase recommended yesterday by the committee of the City of London, whose members stand on no party platforms but pride themselves on financial rectitude.

Tower Hamlets council, which is Labour controlled, yesterday said it would ask its ratepayers for 9 per cent more in 1982-83. That compares with the 17 per cent figure for the commercial rate increase recommended yesterday by the committee of the City of London, whose members stand on no party platforms but pride themselves on financial rectitude.

Tower Hamlets is one of the Labour-controlled councils in London that, classified by Mr Heseltine as "over-spenders", have gained from his grants distribution for 1982-83, an election year for the London boroughs.

A similar pattern holds throughout inner London. Domestic ratepayers will pay nearly 21 per cent more in Conservative Westminster, 7 per cent extra in neighbouring Lambeth, which is Labour controlled; Wandsworth, Conservative, will probably next week vote a rates increase of about 15 per cent, while neighbouring Lambeth, Labour, plans a cut in its rate of 1 per cent.

Southwark, Labour, will rise by 10 per cent while Conservative Kensington and Chelsea's will increase by 25 per cent.

Conservative councillors on the Government's benches are doubly angry because the portion of the rate attributable to spending by the boroughs has been cut in several cases.

Wandsworth council hopes to cut its "borough rate", the amount it needs to pay for the services it provides, — by more than 40 per cent. It blames the rises on the increased amounts demanded by the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) and the Greater London Council, both Labour-controlled.

Mr Patrick Roney, chairman of the City of London's Finance Committee, said: "The severe demands placed on City of London ratepayers are caused by the direct result of heavy precepts by ILEA and the GLC and the resulting grant losses."

But Labour-controlled boroughs have cut their borough rates, too. Tower Hamlets by 17 per cent. Even adding the precepts, they are planning to ask ratepayers for proportionately less in total.

An explanation was given earlier this week by Mr Nicholas Freeman, leader of Kensington and Chelsea council, when he announced that rates would rise, but through no fault of the Conservatives.

"It will be noticed that for other boroughs the increase is lower than ours. The explanation is to be found by appreciating that only a relatively small part of the total bill is attributable to the high-spending boroughs the borough proportion of the rate bill is very much greater than in the case in this borough."

Several of the Labour boroughs gained unexpectedly from the grants formula, a point acknowledged by Mr Heseltine in the past when he said it illustrated the objective nature of his system. Lambeth's finances improved markedly as a result of the adjustments to the rate support system made last year to give more aid to designated inner city areas.

Other boroughs, such as Camden, which receives no grant, have used cash reserves to protect ratepayers. Some councils have cut spending.

Williams urges jobs for blacks

By Philip Webster

Positive discrimination to encourage blacks into the public services was advocated last night by Mrs Shirley Williams, joint leader of the Social Democratic Party.

She said that public purchasing and government contracts should be made conditional on companies having clear and positive non-discriminatory employment policies.

Mrs Williams, delivering the Gaiskell memorial lecture at Nottingham University, did not say such policies would operate and made no mention of legislation, but she said their success would depend on effective monitoring.

"Many of us in central and local government wrongly believed that the different races in Britain would settle down to a tolerant acceptance of one another," she said, but a growing number of young people were being alienated from society.

Unemployment among blacks was 40 per cent, or even higher, and was concentrated among the unskilled, the less qualified and the ethnic minorities.

"An underclass of young people is emerging, a lost generation."

Authoritarian approaches to the problem "may buy time, and we need to buy time, but they offer no solutions, and they threaten the fragile structure of a democracy based on consent, by putting a lid on the cauldron."

Mr T. J. Gilligan, Pimley Bowes vice-president for European operations, said the foundation would build a register of projects waiting for help. "If a sponsor can be shown how his donations can help a conservation effort and provide a public relations advantage, then the donating company can obtain a better return."

Profits made by Pimley Bowes from disease-resistant strains of elms developed for the group in the United States will be used to finance the foundation.

Prosser 'was crushed to death by crippling blow'

Mr Barry Prosser died in Winson Green Prison, Birmingham, from a crippling blow to the stomach caused by one of the prison's people, a murder trial jury was told yesterday.

Dr Derek Barrowcliffe, a Home Office pathologist, told Leicester Crown Court that it was "highly unlikely" that Mr Prosser's injuries were self-inflicted and he ruled out the possibility that they were caused by a fall over a chamberpot.

Mr Prosser, aged 32, was found dead in his cell on August 19, 1980. The court heard that he died from a burst stomach and a perforated gut.

Dr Barrowcliffe said Mr Prosser was bruised both internally and externally from head to toe. It was most likely that more than one person was responsible, although it was possible that he had been taken off guard by a blow to his genitals and reduced to a "crippled hulk" by one man.

Melwyn Jackson, aged 33, Eric Smith, aged 33, all officers at the prison, deny murder.

The prosecution says the three denied entering Mr Prosser's cell on the night he died before going in to administer an injection with discipline officers called by Mr Jackson. But Mr Douglas

Dr Barrowcliffe said that if he was already injured at the time the officers entered. He was found lying down moaning, groaning, I understood he was thirsty. This man had already received severe internal injuries."

Dr Barrowcliffe said that Mr Prosser died from a crush injury to the upper part of his abdomen. "The most likely cause was a heavy weight dropping with force and a great deal of velocity on the upper part of the abdomen."

One of 12 prison officers summoned by Mr Jackson to administer the injection to Mr Prosser said, there was no resistance or struggle.

Mr Barry Turner said Mr Jackson had briefed them before the trial. "The gist of it was that there was a potentially dangerous man, violent and big, and we were to administer an injection into his body. His judgment was to go in there and we needed to turn him on his stomach and restrain him and hold him down."

The trial was adjourned until next Monday. The jury will today visit the cell in which Mr Prosser died.

Industry is asked to aid wildlife

By Hugh Clayton

Dr David Bellamy yesterday moderated the wide-eyed enthusiasm and fruity tones that have become his trademark as the "Botanic Man" of television and appeared to industry for money.

He had already raised at the Institute of Directors in London that cash was needed for thousands of wildlife conservation projects. "Without the natural resources of the world the future of all the multinationals will be very bleak," he said at the launching of a Conservation Foundation financed by the Pitney Bowes office machinery group.

Mr Bellamy made clear that he had not come to criticize business tycoons, but to applaud them. He had seen the success with which banks, insurance houses, car, oil, and food companies had sponsored nature conservation and education, and he said he wanted industry to do more.

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Judges get new power to defer sentences

By Frances Gibb

MPs yesterday agreed to new powers for judges and magistrates to suspend part of a prison sentence. This was despite a barrage of criticism from the Opposition and warnings that the prison population would rise to more than 45,000.

In the committee stage of the Criminal Justice Bill, Labour MPs, who were defeated on the new clause by 11 votes to nine, accused the Government of changing from its original policy of automatic parole for shorter sentence prisoners because of pressure from the judiciary.

Mr Alexander Lyon, Labour MP for York and a former Minister of State at the Home Office, said that Lord Justice Lawton, a senior judge in the Court of Appeal, had "blown the gaff" when he had spoken of a meeting of the appeal court judges with the Lord Chief Justice and indicated "how they had voted him slowly down".

"Five or six people in England decided that a proposal which was widely canvassed, supported by a considerable section of this House, certainly by the Home Office, and was the policy of the Home Secretary, should not be carried."

The reason, he said, was that the judiciary had indicated that if there was automatic parole for shorter-term prisoners who had served one third of their sentences, judges would increase sentences accordingly.

With that ultimatum, from the judiciary, Mr Alfred Dubs, Labour MP for Battersea South, added, the Home Office capitulated and the minister dramatically changed his view.

Dr Shirley Summerskill, a Labour home affairs spokeswoman, said to learn how legislation was drawn up through newspapers and television. No one had told them those consultations were taking place.

The new powers, which the Government hopes will ease overcrowding in prisons, come into force on March 29, by the implementation of a section in the Criminal Law Act, 1977, which has never been activated.

Provisions in the Criminal Justice Bill will make the use of the powers more flexible by cutting from six to three months the minimum sentence that can be partly

suspended and cutting from six weeks to 28 days the period that an offender must spend in custody.

Bodies opposed to the new powers, which include the Law Society, the Justice Clerks' Society and the National Association of Probation Workers, were cited by Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk.

They feared the powers would lead to a rise in prison numbers, he said. Faced with borderline cases, courts would go for the easy option and give a partly suspended sentence rather than take the bolder step of a fully suspended or non-custodial sentence.

Mr Kilroy-Silk, who is chairman of the all-party penal affairs group, abstained from the vote because he supported the intention behind the clause. He said Home Office research had shown that when suspended sentences were first introduced courts used them where previously they would have imposed a non-custodial sentence.

Replying for the Government, Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office, said one could not ignore the opinion of the judiciary, who were going to impose the sentences.

Mr Mayhew, who was responsible for the power being included in the Criminal Law Act in 1977 when an opposition member, said that although it had never been implemented much had changed since then.

There was evidence that the judiciary had learnt from their mistakes over the suspended sentences and there was a much wider appreciation of their proper use. It was a reasonable gamble to ensure that the new power would be properly applied.

An internal police inquiry into the death, in custody, of a man aged 26 will be shown on BBC Television next Monday in the Police series, filmed with the Thames Valley force.

The man, who was drunk, was found in his cell, flat on his back, unconscious and vomiting. Despite attempts at resuscitation by policemen, he was dead on arrival at hospital.

The issue for the police was not any question of ill treatment of the prisoner but whether standing orders covering such situations had been carried out.

Heathrow's volunteers speed the baggage

By Alan Hamilton

Passengers using terminal one at Heathrow have reported to British Airways that they have been able to collect their luggage more quickly since baggage handlers there went on strike nearly four weeks ago.

Airline officials also privately concede that passengers' complaints of pilferage have been almost non-existent, since the work was taken over by volunteers drawn from other departments of BA.

"I was out of the airport in half the time it would have taken me to collect my baggage from the bays," said a shuttle passenger who collected his suitcase direct from the aircraft hold.

Another of the scores who wrote to the airline said: "Grateful thanks for keeping the flights going and demonstrating how loyalty, common sense and an active conscience can show the foolish strikers up for what they are."

Far fewer complaints had come from customers about the strike than about the recent bad weather disruptions, the airline said. "Once they know what it is all about they are very understanding."

Mr Lindsay Todd, general manager at terminal one, confirmed yesterday that the airline's target of clearing 90 per cent of incoming passengers' baggage within 25 minutes was being achieved more often than by the regular staff.

Their enthusiasm was partly responsible, he said. But the main reason was that BA had given up handling mail and cargo on its domestic and European flights while the dispute lasted. Only about 10 per cent of short haul flights are being cancelled, and long haul services are not affected.

The 2,000 regular ramp staff, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, are objecting to new rosters which claim mean working from 17 to 30 extra days a year without extra pay.

About 350 volunteers a day, from aircraft captains to clerical staff, load, unload and clean aircraft, transport baggage and drive the tractors which position aircraft on the ground.

Mr Robert Macdonald, head of customer services, said the volunteers were well aware that the airline lost £140m last year. A "survival plan" aims to cut 3,000 jobs



Mr Michael Lock, a designer preparing a Surrealist style model (left) wearing a Schiaparelli dress for the new costume gallery at Brighton Museum. The gallery, which opens in April, will feature the creations of famous couturiers of the 1920-50 period, many presented by the original owners.

Prison governor loses Lords contempt appeal

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A former governor of Albany Prison, Isle of Wight, was in contempt of court when he blocked a prisoner's High Court application, the House of Lords ruled yesterday.

Stephen Patrick Raymond, the prisoner, had tried to apply to have Mr Colin Honey committed for contempt after he stopped a letter from the prisoner to his solicitor.

The Lords ruled that Mr Honey was wrong to intercept the High Court application, but upheld the Divisional Court ruling that he had not been in contempt when he blocked the original letter. A cross-appeal by Raymond was dismissed.

Lord Wilberforce said there was nothing in the Prison Act, 1952, that conferred power to make regulations which would deny, or interfere with, the prisoner's

basic right to unimpeded access to a court.

Lord Bridge of Harwich said the evidence failed to establish that the stopping of Raymond's letter to his solicitor effectively impeded him in giving instructions on the conduct of his defence at Camberwell Green Magistrates' Court, south London.

Mr Honey escapes a penalty, however. The Divisional Court made no order on the motion.

The Prison Department said it would carefully consider the judgment to see if there were any further implications for its procedures.

After the Divisional Court voting, governors were told not to stop communications to courts issuing proceedings. The prison standing orders reflect that judgment, the department says.

Law Report, page 23

BIG GROWTH IN USE OF GATWICK

By Michael Bailey

Transport Correspondent

Traffic through Gatwick grew by a quarter last year to make it the world's fourth biggest international airport after Heathrow, London, Kennedy, New York, and Frankfurt, it still had far fewer passengers than Heathrow, 10,700,000 compared with 26 million.

Gatwick has grown largely because many airlines were forced to go there when there was no room at Heathrow. Those airlines tended to be those which have produced more dynamic growth.

The trend is expected to continue despite the collapse of Laker, one of Gatwick's biggest users.

Charter traffic, on which Gatwick's fortunes were largely founded, remained virtually static last year, while scheduled services blossomed.

First shot fired in Welsh water war

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Mr Dafydd Wigley, president of Plaid Cymru, yesterday returned to the Welsh Water Authority his unpaid bill for £267 for a year's domestic water supply and signalled the beginning of a campaign of civil disobedience in the principality.

Water charges are an emotive issue in Wales and the party is hoping that thousands of consumers will refuse to pay their water rates until "more realistic payments" are made by English authorities for their supplies from Welsh reservoirs.

Plaid Cymru considers that the issue cuts across the language divide and political affiliations and is urging people from all parties to withhold payment of their bills. Welsh Water Authority consumers are charged 30p in the pound, compared with the 14p and 17p paid respectively by customers of the Severn-Trent and North West authorities, both of which extract millions of gallons from reservoirs in Wales.

Dissatisfaction in the principality was heightened by the recent decision of the WWA to raise its charges to the average household by 18.3 per cent.

The WWA has asked the Severn-Trent Authority to pay £4.5m, three times the present charge, for the water it takes from Wales, but that has been rejected. Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, and Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, are now involved in the dispute.

Mr Edwards has agreed that the WWA be reorganised to make it more efficient but he is determined to resist calls for a centralized water authority on the lines of other nationalized industries.

Earlier this week MPs attending the parliamentary committee on Welsh affairs were told by Dr Roger Thomas, the Labour member for Carmarthen, that the issue of water charges could cause instability throughout the principality.

Boxing belts stolen

Cash and two championship belts worth £1,700 each have been stolen from the British Boxing Board of Control's London office. One of the belts was new. The other had been held by Charlie Magri, the former British flyweight champion.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Bailiffs on trail of bookworms

Bailiffs are being used to deal with people in Hampshire who fail to return library books. In a three-month experiment, a book worth £2,600 were recovered with £768 in fines and £111 for lost books.

Hampshire County Council has decided to make the bailiffs, who take 10 per cent of the debt recovered, a permanent feature of its library service.

Mr John Reynolds, who is in charge of administration for the county's 53 libraries, said that only a minority of missing books were caused by the forgetfulness. "Most of the people who keep library books do so deliberately."

If a book is not returned after two reminders we get in touch with the bailiff. I have known a person take a wheelbarrow load of overdue books to a mobile library."

Stricken ship worries MP

Mr Gordon Wilson, the Scottish National Party MP for Dundee East, yesterday called for an urgent government statement on the potential danger caused by the cargo ship Craigantlet, which is aground off the Galloway coast with a cargo of dangerous chemicals on board.

Mr Wilson said: "Highly poisonous chemicals have been washed into the sea and I want to find out what the Government is doing to lessen the danger and prevent such an occurrence happening again."

The Cypriot container vessel went aground off Portpatrick on Friday. Some of the deck cargo, including containers of chemical waste, has since been washed into the sea and police have warned people to stay away.

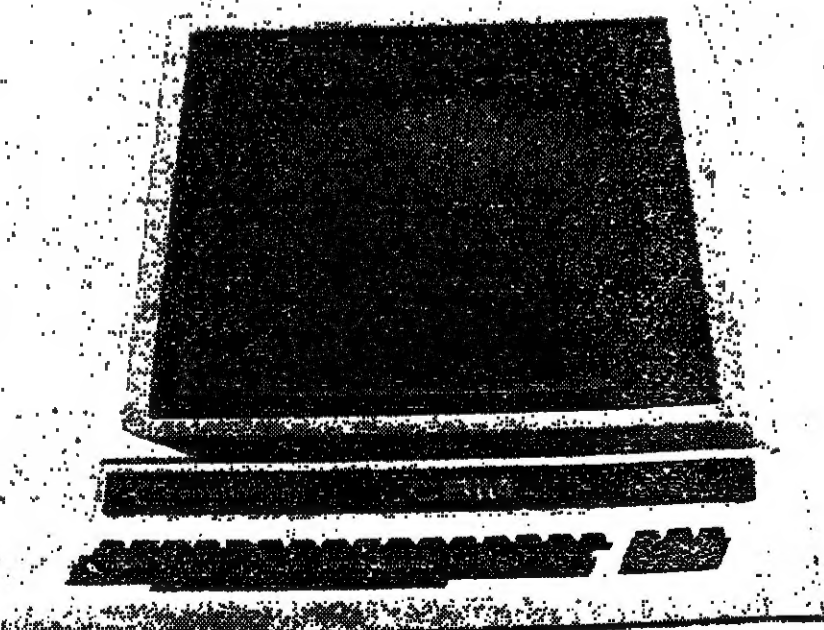
Child murder charge remand

Martin Edward Beale, aged 49, was remanded in custody yesterday charged with murdering his daughter Rowan, aged two, at Hope Cove, Devon, on Tuesday.

Mr Beale, an unemployed craftsman, of no fixed address, is to appear again at Kingsbridge Magistrates' Court on Wednesday.

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Anger in Spain to killing by Civil Guards

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, March 4

Spain's Civil Guards are once again at the centre of a popular outcry in Andalusia after the fatal shooting of an 18-year-old youth and the serious wounding of his cousin at Trebujena 20 miles north of Jerez, the sherry town. They had been riding a motorcycle and failed to heed a Civil Guard's order to halt. Last night after the burial of the youth, Ignacio Montoya, an unemployed labourer, all the region's leftwing forces headed by the Socialist Party of Andalusia, combined to issue a statement rejecting the official version of the shooting as "incorrect, and an insult to the victim". They demanded an investigation by Parliament.

The local Civil Guard authorities said a Civil Guard on duty outside the paramilitary organization's barracks identified the youths as two suspected thieves denounced earlier in the day by a local farmer's wife.

The Civil Guard, according to the official version, fired one warning shot into the air. When the motorcycle failed to stop he fired three more shots at the youths. Ignacio Montoya was killed instantly, and his cousin was found by doctors later to have been shot through the spine.

Local people maintained that the youths failed to stop because they did not want to get a traffic fine. They pointed out that one hour elapsed between the woman's denunciation being communicated to Civil Guards on duty, and the two youths riding past the barracks. The youth's motorcycle possessed a mechanical part which the farmer's wife had noted was missing from a thieves' vehicle.

Last May Andalusia was

the scene of a tragic error by Civil Guards which ended with the discovery of three burnt corpses on an Almería roadside. They belonged to three young men with no criminal records who had been detained and interrogated by Civil Guards as suspected members of ETA, the Basque terrorist organization.

Senor Juan Roson, the Interior Minister, subsequently told Parliament that "irregularities" had occurred. The latest blunder by the Civil Guards, who are widely feared and hated in Andalusia caused all banks, shops, bars, schools and even public offices to close all day yesterday in Trebujena following a protest motion passed by all parties on the town council.

The Civil Governor of Seville replied by imposing a fine of 500,000 pesetas (about £2,700) on the town's leftwing mayor, as well as fines on local shopkeepers.

Madrid: A deposition given in court today linked Major-General Alfonso Armada, former deputy Army Chief of Staff to the right-wing military plot to overthrow the Spanish governments despite earlier written testimony from the ex-adviser to King Juan Carlos that he was not part of the conspiracy (AP reporter).

The deposition was given in the ninth day of the court martial trying General Armada, 31 other military men and one civilian for military rebellion in the attempted coup a year ago.

A deposition by Brigadier-General Manuel Prieto, of the Civil Guard said the leader of rebellious Civil Guards claimed he was acting on the orders of General Armada.

From Paul Ellman, Guatemala City, March 4

Caught in the crossfire between left and right, the Roman Catholic Church in Central America is heading towards a big crisis, particularly over its role in the strife-torn nations of El Salvador and Guatemala.

At the centre of the debate presently disturbing the church is the question of how far it should go in spreading the Christian doctrine of human dignity and brotherly love without becoming involved in revolutionary political movements whose members include Marxists.

Critics on the right, both political and ecclesiastical, argue that the church has already gone too far and is encouraging the spread of communism. Critics on the left accuse it of only surface commitment to social change.

This commitment stemmed originally from a desire to halt the spread of Marxist ideology. After Vatican II from 1962 to 1965, the Latin American church as a whole agreed to work to improve the lot of its adherents, particularly the impoverished inhabitants of rural areas. The church found itself in direct competition with those trying to foster the ideals of the Cuban revolution, seen as a model for Latin American nations.

As a consequence priests in El Salvador, for example, went to live in rural areas, introducing villagers for the first time to the idea that they could liberate themselves from a brutish existence dominated by the harsh rule of the National Guard.

Not surprisingly, many of the guerrillas fighting in El Salvador still profess to be Christian Democrats opposed to the party's decision under President José Napoleón Duarte to share power with the military.

In Guatemala priests brought a similar message to the Indians who, while they

make up 60 per cent of the population, live on the margins of the country's life.

The mounting political violence in these two countries over the past two years has not spared the church, which has seen nine of its workers murdered in El Salvador and 12 in Guatemala, which has also banned foreign missionaries from entering the country.

The most spectacular attack on the church was the assassination in 1980 at the altar of San Salvador Cathedral of Archbishop Oscar

Arnulfo Romero y Galdamez, who was an outspoken critic of the behaviour of the Salvadorean military.

Under strong pressure, not only from the right but also from the Christian Democratic Party, his successor, Acting Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas, has been more circumspect, preferring to address himself in general terms to the need to "detoxify" El Salvador of violence.

Church circles, however, report that even this may not be enough to assuage the right and there is growing

pressure, inside and outside the church, for Mgr Rivera y Damas not to be confirmed in his post but for the archdiocese to be given to a non-Salvadorean.

The right has been encouraged by last week's public admonishment by Pope John Paul II of the Jesuits for their radical activities, which have often strayed from the conservative positions adopted by the Pope.

The Jesuits, who total about 300 in Central America, have long been among the foremost proponents of the

so-called "theology of liberation" which, right-wingers claim, differs little from Marxist doctrine.

"Before they used to see a Christian Democrat behind every Jesuit. Now they see at best a Social Democrat or, at worst, a Marxist," commented a member of the order, which has been threatened with outright expulsion from both El Salvador and Guatemala. "It's only because we are for a social situation which provides reforms and justice."

While the church's efforts

Crisis in Central America Catholic church caught in the crossfire



War toll: Salvadorean guerrillas collecting taxes from traffic on the Pan American highway

to improve the social conditions of its followers come under fire from the right, the Marxist left in Nicaragua has broken publicly with the hierarchy there.

Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo of Nicaragua last June warned that "after two years of hope, our revolution is heading towards Marxism on the Cuban model".

The Archbishop was a persistent critic of the late Nicaraguan dictator, Anastasio Somoza, who was overthrown in 1979. Later he has been attacking the Sandinistas, who overthrew the dictatorship, for violating the human rights of the Miskito Indian population.

The revolutionary Government in Managua has resettled forcibly in the centre of the country more than 8,000 Miskitos, whose previous home was on the Pacific coast near the frontier with Honduras, alleging that they were collaborating with anti-Sandinista guerrillas.

The Sandinistas have asked the Vatican to send a mission of inquiry to look into the activities of the church in Nicaragua.

The fear that church unity could be shattered because of events in El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua brought a dire warning from Archbishop Román Arrieta Villalobos of Costa Rica, who is also chairman of the Episcopal Council of Central America and Panama.

Warning that the church could end up unable to preach its message of conciliation, and clearly hoping that the right and left will not force a schism, the Archbishop said: "I cannot accept the idea of support for violent change, since Christians have other ways. There, nevertheless, have to be changes in social structures, because injustice is the cause of the problem, but armed struggle is not the way".

Reagan claims US economy is turning

From Michael Hamlyn, Los Angeles, March 4

President Reagan went to his home state of California yesterday and decided to accentuate the positive. He declared that his Administration's economic policies were already beginning to work.

Addressing an audience of conservative California local government officials he launched his most powerful defence so far of his new federalism proposal.

Looking on the bright side, he told the audience, which included his daughter Maureen, a candidate in the Senate elections later this year, of the indicators pointing towards his success.

"In fact, it has fallen faster than anyone predicted, 8.9 per cent average for 1981 and only about 4.5 per cent for the past three months."

"Savings are up and the main incentives to save are just coming on line. What does that mean to the economy? Well, a 1 per cent increase in personal savings of \$20,000m (£11,000m) in the investment pool of available capital."

"The prime interest rate, while still too high, has declined by 20 per cent. There may be some minor fluctuations, but the interest rate trend line is downward."

He declared that the economy was now poised for recovery and added: "It does prove that the medicine is beginning to work."

The President set about rallying the defence of his budget proposals, which are being attacked on all sides, even by his friends.

He admitted concern over the nearly \$100,000m budget deficit he is proposing. "It's certainly taking its toll on the nerves of those in Capitol Hill," he said. But he defended that too, pointing out that past deficits represented a far larger proportion of gross national product than his proposals.

"In the years we were coming out of the 1974 recession, deficits averaged 3.5 per cent of Gross National Product. Our projected deficit — big as it is — will only be 2.7 per cent of GNP."

Then he broadened the budget deficit argument into a wide range of defence of his

new federalism proposals, linking the increased federal spending to the "expanding federal monolith".

He defended the concept of returning governmental decision to local authorities with appropriate quotations from Thomas Jefferson, Chief Justice John Marshall, Calvin Coolidge and Will Rogers.

The new federalism so far has failed to excite much interest among the American public. The main fear of the proposal has been that it would be a cover for back spending programmes, but Mr Reagan and his supporters have been at pains to show that there will be no losers. "While there are no losers," Mr Reagan said today, "the people will be the winners."

The President referred to a column written by David Broder, a normally implacable enemy of Reaganism, writing in *The Washington Post*, the most hostile of the establishment newspapers.

He said: "A major news columnist recently pointed out some politicians and pundits don't take the issue of federalism seriously. Many of them, he suggested, simply don't realize how fed up grassroots Americans are with the centralization of power and resources in Washington. The columnist concluded that it would be a political mistake to brush aside federalism." The President added: "Well, bless his little typewriter!"

Mr Reagan referred to the fears of some people raised in an era when states' rights was a cover phrase for racism. "For the record," he said, "the new federalism is not meant to be and will not be permitted to be a step backward in the nation's commitment to civil rights."

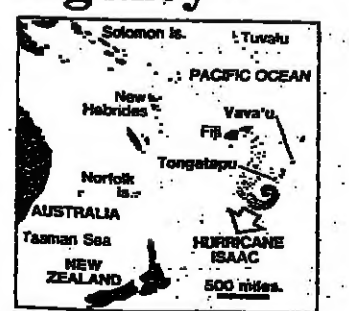
In praising the development of voluntary service throughout local authority work the President announced the appointment of a private sector survey chief who will root out inefficiency and the waste of taxpayers' dollars in the federal Government. The new chairman of the survey is Mr Peter Grace, chairman and chief executive of the chemical company W. R. Grace.

Cyclone-stricken islands face food emergency

Sydney, March 4. — Five Australian Air Force transport aircraft left tonight with relief supplies for the Pacific island kingdom of Tonga, where at least two people have died in a cyclone, officials said.

Most telephone lines to the islands have been cut by the cyclone, although officials confirmed that two children had been killed and seven were missing and feared drowned.

The Australian Broadcasting Commission, which managed to make telephone contact with the islands today, said 50 people had been treated for injuries. The news editor of Tonga radio said in an interview that there was a desperate need for food and supplies.



All power had been cut on the main island of Nukunono and in the capital, Nukunono, houses had been washed away by flood waters. Most buildings in the town had been damaged by the cyclone, which first hit the Tongan islands on Tuesday night, but is now moving away.

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Palestine dispute jars Mitterrand's Israel visit

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, March 4

Differences about the Palestinian problem have ended the initial harmony of the first visit to Israel by a French head of state.

During a special session of the Knesset Parliament today, M. François Mitterrand, the French President, and Mr. Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, dwelt at length on their diametrically opposed views about a possible solution.

M. Mitterrand reiterated his strongly held opinion that it was wrong for outsiders to interfere in the Middle East problem. He said the task of finding an answer should be left to the peoples of the region. "France will not act as an arbitrator or as a mediator."

M. Mitterrand addressed the chamber from the podium used by the late President Sadat in November 1977. Mr. Begin replied from a wheelchair positioned by his usual seat, but the hip injury he is suffering from did nothing to diminish the fierceness of his rhetoric.

He denied that the setting up of a Palestinian state in the West Bank would provide

symmetric justice. "Can the people of France really allow themselves, after all that has happened during the Second World War, to render support to the design of handing over the mountains of Judea and Samaria to an enemy bent on our destruction, as itself proclaims in its infamous charter."

Repeating what had been said during private meetings with the French, Mr. Begin described the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) charter as the "Arab edition of Mein Kampf".

He quoted from an exchange which he said took place in London two weeks ago between "Mr. El-Hassan, 'Arafat' [the PLO leader] and a correspondent of the Israeli newspaper *Devar*.

Later Mr. El-Hassan was quoted as saying: "Zionism is the Satan. We don't negotiate with it."

On Israel, he allegedly said: "If it is based on the Zionist doctrine, then it has no right of existence, and we have no intention of negotiating with it."

Mr. Begin, after emphasizing the importance of the new rapport with France that has been established by M. Mitterrand's election and now his visit, described French support for a Palestinian state as the main obstacle in the path to the renewal of friendship between the two countries.

M. Mitterrand said in his 35-minute address that he did not take a strong stand on who did and who did not represent the Palestinians. But he asked how the PLO could expect to sit at the negotiating table while it denied Israel's right to exist.

The French leader, who had avoided reference to the Palestinian question during the first day of his visit, said the essential conditions for negotiations between Israelis and Arabs were "preliminary and mutual recognition, and mutual renunciation of direct and indirect war".

Later M. Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, who had come in for criticism during Mr. Begin's address, held private talks with a number of West Bank leaders, including two of the most radical mayors, Mr. Bassam Shaka, of Nablus and Mr. Karim Khalef, of Ramallah.

The Arab leaders who also included Mr. Elias Freij, Mayor of Bethlehem, had previously said that Mr. Arafat should meet M. Mitterrand.



Welcome to India: Mrs Indira Gandhi greeting President Karamanlis of Greece in Delhi at the start of his four-day state visit.

Union fears grow in Greece

From Mario Modiano, Athens, March 4

International labour organizations have expressed grave concern over the abrupt changes of leadership in the Greek trade union movement after the Socialist Government came to power.

A combined delegation from the European Trade Unions and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, which just spent 24 hours in Athens, raised the matter with Mr. Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister. The crisis broke out when unions affiliated with the ruling Socialists challenged before a tribunal

the validity of the elections at the nationwide labour congress in October.

These unions obtained a court injunction deposing the elected leaders of the Greek General Confederation of Labour and appointing a new executive dominated by pro-Government union officials. The verdict of the tribunal has not been issued but the appointed confederation leadership took over the delicate negotiations with employers' associations on the national pay scales.

The Higher Arbitration Court fixed minimum wages at 825 drachmas (£7.50) yesterday and the lowest monthly salary in the private sector at 18,580 drachmas (£169). This tallies exactly with the increases granted by the Government in the public sector. It was known that the Socialist Cabinet was particularly anxious that these levels should not be exceeded as they could upset economic planning.

Opposition critics have accused the Papandreu Government of engineering the takeover of the confederation to neutralize pressures from its left and its right.

Convention fails to halt mass murder

By Caroline Moorehead

The Genocide Convention, drafted in the aftermath of the Second World War by signatories universally horrified at the devastation caused by the Nazis, has significantly failed to eradicate what they termed an "odious scourge" against mankind, according to a new report published by the Minority Rights Group, International Action Against Genocide. Not merely has it failed to prevent numerous massacres after decolonization, and the mass murder of political groups, but the need for international protection against genocide is more urgent than ever.

Professor Leo Kuper, author of the report, begins by enumerating different variations of the crime. There is, he says, "domestic genocide" by which he means that of indigenous people, victims of predatory economic development (the Ache Indians of Paraguay); of tribal minorities after decolonization (the Hutu of Burundi); of racial groups during struggles for autonomy (Bangladesh); or against scapegoat groups (the Armenians by the Turks).

But there are also, he argues, the political mass murders of the days of Stalin, the slaughter in Uganda — wrongly excluded from the convention. These are, he says, "routine instruments of despotic power".

That the United Nations convention has failed is not really in question. Professor Kuper attributes this however not merely to the ambiguities of definition — to ensure ratification the massive slaughter of political groups and cultural genocide were both omitted from the final convention — but also to the emphasis on punishment (so far totally ineffective) rather than prevention.

Given the United Nations inability to act, Professor Kuper advocates some sort of early warning screening system to prevent genocidal conflicts occurring, the appointment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights, the eventual setting up of an international penal court, and the continuing efforts of non-governmental human rights organizations everywhere, working to keep such atrocities ever before the public eye.

International Action Against Genocide is the MRC's fifty-third report and appears as the organization celebrates its tenth anniversary. Born in the wake of Biafra, MRC set out to do for minorities what Amnesty International does for individuals: bring to the attention of the world the light of persecuted groups. Like Amnesty, it has tried to report on all geographic and political systems, in as impartial a way as possible.

International Action Against Genocide, by Professor Leo Kuper (£1.20 plus 30p postage) and the other reports can be bought from MRC, 36 Craven Street, London WC2.

Gaddafi threatens to go to war with US

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, March 4

Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, appears to be on the verbal warpath once again. Only a day after he claimed that the United States had conspired with Saudi Arabia to starve Libya of its oil market, he announced in Tripoli today that if America violated Libya's territorial waters his country would go to war with the United States.

"If America enters the Bay of Sidra (Sirte)," he told a rally in the Libyan capital, "war in the full sense of the word will begin between us and them, war with planes, navies, missiles and everything."

In August last year, two American fighters shot down two Libyan Air Force jets over the Gulf of Sirte during United States naval manoeuvres in the Mediterranean. The incident was followed by a series of antagonistic speeches by Colonel Gaddafi against the American Government, an onslaught which President Reagan's Administration obligingly returned in kind. The Libyan leader long ago realised that to be a public enemy of the United States was to gain the favour of Third World countries and left-wing Arab nations. The Americans have never failed to support this image by denouncing the colonel as a terrorist leader.

Angered by what he regarded as an American boycott of Libyan oil sales in the United States, Colonel Gaddafi said that he would

"be ready to sit down face to face and negotiate with America to discuss what we can do to establish relations between two countries in this world."

But this boycott... is unreasonable in international relations because America is a big power and its relations with smaller countries should be unbiased. America should have self-respect and not attack a small country like Libya which has only two to three million inhabitants."

American tend to regard Colonel Gaddafi's latest fulminations as a product of the mouse that roared, but this is only half the truth. For there has been an important shift in the loyalty of Libya's publicly proclaimed Arab enemies.

In the past, the Egyptian leadership has always formed the object of Colonel Gaddafi's hatred with Saudi Arabia's monarchy running a close second. Now Saudi Arabia is being portrayed as an American lackey while mention of the Egyptian Government has disappeared. It seems that Colonel Gaddafi is looking forward to some kind of rapprochement with the Egyptians under President Mubarak, at the expense of Saudi Arabia.

The Saudis, according to the Libyan leader, were trying to "drown" the world oil market in crude oil at the cheapest price because they wanted to "starve" Libya. "Saudi Arabia has declared a war of famine, an economic war against us," he said.

37 Sinai families evicted

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, March 4

Security forces stepped up the eviction of Israeli squatters from Sinai settlements before the scheduled return of the territory to Egypt on April 26. Buses took 37 families from three settlements today.

The expected rush of Stop the Withdrawal activists to resist the evictions did not materialize. A few approached, but were turned away. The evicted put up token resistance.

At Talmi Yosef, where 22 families were removed, petrol-soaked rags were set ablaze at one entrance to the village and a car parked across a road at another. In the afternoons the forces evicted more people from near Abraham and from Maoz Hayan.

Bona fide residents of the villages are being allowed to stay until March 31. Most accepted compensation and are committed to move. The squatters have taken over farms and houses of families who have been moved to Israel.

An activist said anti-withdrawal movement's moderation was tactical: it was decided to avoid overt confrontations with the Army, but to smuggle supporters past road blocks and into the region at night.

Rabbi Meir Kahane, the Jewish Defence League leader, arrived today at Yamit, the main Sinai settlement, and said he was setting up a new headquarters and wanted volunteers to "meet force with force".

Witnesses said soldiers arrived at the settlements today without arms. The squatters delayed evictions but troops were patient. Women soldiers helped the families to pack and men helped to load lorries. The squatters were taken to Beersheba.

At Talmi Yosef the eviction was held up as some families produced papers attesting that they were bona fide residents. One settler was detained. Suspects of forging identity papers.

Radiation kills atom plant man

Toronto, March 4. — An Ontario nuclear worker has died because of radiation in his work, a spokesman for Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd said today. Another worker at the same plant had a disability award for cancer believed to have been caused or aggravated by radiation.

Both have been long serving employees at the Atomic Energy of Canada nuclear reactor research centre at Chalk River, Ontario, near Ottawa.

The company's admission of radiation-related cancers among its former workers could have important implications for the industry, for standards of radiation exposure and for hundreds of nuclear workers in Canada and abroad.

The two men developed typical radiation-related cancers although they never received more than the current maximum permissible dose of radiation during their years at Chalk River. Both received Ontario Workmen's Compensation Board awards in 1981 based on the company's acknowledgement to the board that their exposure to radiation was possible or contributing cause of their cancers.

One man retired in 1981 after 28 years as a radiation worker. He was diagnosed as having cancer of the skin and neck. The other retired earlier after 31 years' service and was confirmed as suffering from leukaemia.

Chalk River's 2,200 workers were briefed earlier in the week about the cases, the spokesman said. He added: "We have always believed there was an increased risk of cancer due to radiation exposure."

CORRECTIONS

A report from Warsaw published on March 3 stated that the Palestinian Abu Daoud was shot dead last year. He survived the attack.

A Washington report yesterday should have stated that \$218.3m (£110m) allocated for space defence represented less than 0.01 per cent of the proposed budget.

IN June, 1978 Taylor Woodrow went to sea when we acquired an interest in Seaforth Maritime Ltd.

Based in Aberdeen, Seaforth is one of Britain's major offshore support and ocean contracting companies in the oil and gas industries. It is particularly involved with ships, engineering and land-based services.

Embarking on this rather unusual venture for a construction company was something we saw as a logical move. In fact it's all part of our commitment to the development of those new energy sources so vital to Britain's industry and homes.

That's where the sails will play a very important role. Taylor Woodrow, in close partnership with GEC and British Aerospace, is harnessing wind power to provide electricity.

Why a construction company which went to sea is raising sails on land.

Work will soon begin on the construction of a giant 'windmill' to generate power into the grid system on Orkney. With a height of 75 metres it has two rotating blades whose overall diameter is 60 metres. This one machine will eventually supply the islanders with electricity equivalent to the requirements of over one thousand homes.

Projects like Orkney will make Britain world leader in this form of alternative energy source, a field in which Taylor Woodrow has already

played a significant role in the development, civil engineering and construction of six nuclear power stations.

Add to that our involvement in coal mining at home and abroad, oil and gas exploration, and an office in Houston, focal point of the world energy business: then you will have some idea of Taylor Woodrow's commitment in helping to solve the world's pressing energy problems.

EXPERIENCE, EXPERTISE AND TEAMWORK, WORLDWIDE
TAYLOR WOODROW

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Poland: Western anger

Britain refuses to accept enforced political exiles

By David Cross

The British Government has served notice on Poland's military authorities that it will have no truck with any attempt by them to force internees into emigration.

A statement issued by the Foreign Office yesterday said that the Government had no intention of becoming an accomplice of the Polish authorities in resolving their internal problems by exerting pressure on internees to leave Poland against their will.

Any such move would appear to be at variance with their declared commitment to dialogue and reform, the statement added.

The Foreign Office was responding to an announcement by the Passport Office of the Polish Internal Affairs Ministry that the 4,000 people still interned nearly three months after the imposition of martial law could apply to emigrate with their families from the middle of this month.

This was a reiteration of earlier hints from Warsaw that the military authorities wanted to encourage by encouraging them to leave the country.

The Foreign Office said that the Government would only consider applications for resettlement from Polish citizens who genuinely wanted to leave Poland. Such applications would be dealt with in accordance with

normal procedures covering such immigrants.

The Government is already consulting its allies in Nato and the European Community to present a common front to the Polish authorities on how to respond to any enforced emigration policy. It is confident that the United States, where most refugees would probably want to go, and Western Europe share its views.

The Government intends to seek an early meeting with the Polish authorities in Warsaw both to press home its condemnation of any pressure on internees and to seek clarification of details of the Passport Office statement. It is still not clear how the military authorities hope to proceed.

Meanwhile Mr. Frank Chapple, general secretary of the electricians' union, yesterday said that a cynical and deplorable Polish Government policy of forced emigration of critics would succeed only if the overwhelming majority of the Polish people opposed martial law (Molsin Ali writes).

A State Department statement said: "This is a glaring admission of the Polish regime's inability to meet the democratic aspirations of the vast majority of the Polish people."

Warsaw: Fifteen detainees have asked permission to leave the country, the official news agency PAP reported yesterday (AFP reports).

A senior Foreign Ministry official said 219 people had been released from detention camps while 64 others had been interned since February 23. Mr. Jerzy Urban, the government spokesman, added that the militia had so far seized 696 weapons, including machine guns and ammunition.

The Polish authorities said last week that people detained under martial law could be released, provided they promised not to threaten state interests. Mr. Urban yesterday specified that the required declaration of loyalty was legal and not political in character.

It was announced that 42,000 poles who were abroad when martial law was proclaimed had returned to Poland while 96,000 remained outside the country. Any Polish citizen, even those who made prior requests for political asylum, could return and no sanctions would be taken against those "who did not carry out activities hostile towards Poland".

Leading article, page 13

Warsaw ideologists fight a war of shadows

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, March 4

What do you think of Mr. Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the Deputy Prime Minister? The thickest, police-sergeant features of Mr. Albin Siwak contrived a look of sinister, almost morose, deep thought, there was a pause of 10 seconds and then, gruffly: "This is a complex and one could say a dangerous question. We may both see the way forward but we have different goals."

Mr. Siwak, talking in this instance to a foreign television camera, is what Western analysts describe as a hardliner, the toughest, most vociferous pro-Soviet member of the Politburo. Mr. Rakowski is what analysts characterize as a liberal Marxist, or "moderate".

Both are leading members of the Polish United Workers' Party which showed itself yet again, at the Central Committee session last week, to be neither united nor of great relevance to the workers.

Even so, general Wojciech Jaruzelski could visit Moscow this week with at least the feeling that his "moderate" line had triumphed and that Moscow would concede the desirability of limited reform, under the codewords "socialist renewal".

But what do these categories, "moderate" and "hardline", really mean? If last week's plenary proved anything, it was that the old labels have become redundant and are more of a handicap than an aid to understanding the Polish situation. How "moderate", for example, is it to keep the hardliners out of the internal without trial for over two months?

At the emergency party congress last summer it was possible to talk realistically of reformists, moderates and hardliners because the reformist point of Solidarity, the independent trade union movement, still existed. The liberal reformers in the party were those like Tadeusz Fiszbach of Gdansk, who wanted to create a party responsive, in a democratic way, to the Polish people's needs, answering the questions raised by Solidarity, indeed in some ways competing against it as the voice of the workers.

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threat that had to be forcefully countered. The moderates, including General Jaruzelski, wanted to tread a middle path, accepting the need for controlled change but resisting anything that would challenge the "geopolitical realities" — membership of the Warsaw Pact, neighbourly relations with the Soviet Union.

In the following months, before martial law was declared in December, these "moderates" became almost indistinguishable from the "hardliners", driven into a closer embrace by their sense of threat about the growth and influence of Solidarity.

Radical reformers like Fiszbach became isolated, their position, in the view of the party, made untenable by the speed with which Solidarity was developing its political ideas and ambitions. Martial law declared by General Jaruzelski — perhaps, as the leadership has indicated, to head off a Soviet intervention — changed the spectrum.

It no longer became necessary to define party positions in relation to Solidarity: the union is suspended and the leadership jailed — and the pressure for liberal reform has eased correspondingly. The pressure to swear loyalty to the Soviet Union (done most convincingly by the hardliners) increased.

What then, is the gulf dividing Mr. Rakowski and Mr. Siwak? In a recent interview published in *The Times*, Mr. Rakowski said "some of my best friends are in Moscow", and no doubt Mr. Siwak would make the same claim. But there seems to be two cardinal differences between the groupings in the Polish Communist Party.

First there is disagreement over the relative importance of ideology in relation to Solidarity, the independent trade union movement, still existed. The liberal reformers in the party were those like Tadeusz Fiszbach of Gdansk, who wanted to create a party responsive, in a democratic way, to the Polish people's needs, answering the questions raised by Solidarity, indeed in some ways competing against it as the voice of the workers.

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view, expressed in the television interview, is more combative: those who are not for us are against us. The logical conclusion of this is the instrument of the purge. Mr. Siwak is on record as saying that the three liberal Central Committee members ousted at the plenum last week were only the beginning. The drive is towards ideological purity, a drive supported in the provinces by the new local party chiefs who see it as the best way of stamping out Solidarity sympathisers in the party and consolidating their own power.

These differences, so evident at the party leadership level, — the Central Committee cannot even agree on a draft document entitled *What Are We Fighting For, Where Are We Going?* — are extended to the state level. For Mr. Siwak and the people he speaks for, a firm Marxist-Leninist has a condition for national recovery. For Mr. Kubiak, and indeed, for General Jaruzelski, national recovery is a matter of problem-solving that requires every possible instrument of ideology being on hand.

If the best way to cure the economy involves using non-Marxist methods, then that has to be pursued; if the best way to solve youth discontent is to meet young people's material needs, then let us build more homes, produce more cars.

The real distinction then is not between hardliners, moderates and reformists, but between ideologues and technocrats. Naturally, the technocrats are judged by their ability to solve practical problems, they are inclined to compromise and consensus. In the politburo, the technocrats are often those with additional ministerial responsibility or generalists, for they have realized that ideology is not the only instrument of command.

Most of the erstwhile Marxist reformers — Mr. Rakowski, Mr. Stanislaw Ciolek, the trade union spokesman, for example, in Government and not the Politburo because the spirit of reform can best be expressed within the framework of day to day government, rather than in the confines of the Politburo where most decisions have to be justified in terms of ideological purity.

By contrast, Mr. Siwak's being cautious in voicing approval of West Germany's stand for fear of adding ammunition to the critics of Bonn's policy.

Meanwhile, the Russians have been issuing reports over the past week suggesting that they can perfectly well manufacture most essential parts for the pipeline and its pumping stations themselves.

Tass said yesterday that large diameter, multi-layer pipes made of cheap low-alloy steel were now being made in Donetsk, in the Ukraine. These could withstand pressures of up to 120 atmospheres and would be used to transport gas. Another report yesterday said the Russians had begun large-scale production of heavy-duty pipe-laying equipment and machinery for automatic welding of large pipes.

However, the key parts that the Russians will have to

import — the rotor blades for the pumping station turbines — can come only from the United States. Western economic analysts say the Soviet Union is far behind in the technology needed for their manufacture, although it has begun working on the process.

The gas pipeline is due to be completed by 1984, and is the biggest project of the current five-year plan. It is essential if the Russians are to exploit the vast untapped gas reserves of the Urengoi field and in the Yamal peninsula in the far north of Siberia.



Zimbabwe white MPs abandon Ian Smith

From Stephen Taylor Salisbury, March 4

Seven MPs of the white Republican Front resigned today in the culmination of a long, simmering rebellion against the leadership of Mr. Ian Smith and the party's attitude towards the government of Zimbabwe.

The resignations of the seven, who are not forming a new party and will sit as independents, leaves the Front with only 10 members in the House of Assembly.

There was no official response from the ruling Zanu (PF) Party of Mr. Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, but Mr. Didymus Mutasa, the Speaker of the House who was informed earlier, said Mr. Mugabe would welcome the resignations.

Front policy and its failure to respond to the reconciliation espoused by the Government, was criticized at a plain-speaking caucus meeting this morning. At a meeting afterwards the seven, who had been considering resigning for several months, decided that there were insufficient grounds for them to remain in the party.

The rebels are Mr. Christopher Andersen, who arranged a meeting between his constituents and Mr. Robert Mugabe, Mr. Richard Cartwright, Mr. Henry Elsworth, Mr. William Irvine, Mr. Esmond Micklem, Mr. Paddy Shields and Mr. James Thrusch.

They speculated that they might be joined by John Landau, the Chief Whip, who is out of the country at present.

Mr. Thrusch said that they had decided to resign because they felt they were no longer able to represent their constituencies adequately as members of the Front and because some of the views expressed in the party were totally opposed to their own.

It was the intention of the seven to work for the successful development of Zimbabwe in cooperation with members of the Republican Front where appropriate.

Despite the implicit criticism of Mr. Smith, they made no attack on the man who led the party and white Rhodesia throughout the years of unilateral independence and the guerrilla war which led to official independence.

Mr. Thrusch said he retained a tremendous admiration for Mr. Smith.

The former Prime Minister, who has become increasingly alienated from Mr. Mugabe and his colleagues, said that the resignations, could not have come at a worse time. "The more difficult the times, the more important it is to stay together," he said.

Asked whether the split might cause him to stand down he said: "I think it might have delayed it."

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Argentina steps up Falklands pressure

By Peter Strafford

By issuing ill-defined threats of action against the Falkland Islands, the Argentine military Government appears to have taken a deliberate decision to raise the temperature on this sensitive issue.

Both in Britain and Argentina there are strong feelings about the future of the islands. In Argentina it is believed that they are rightly part of Argentine territory, in spite of having been ruled by Britain since 1833, and they should be handed back.

In Britain it is government policy, repeated on Wednesday by Mr. Richard Luce, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, that there can be no contemplation of any transfer of sovereignty without consulting the wishes of the islanders, or without the consent of the House of Commons.

The decision to press the issue more aggressively bears the mark of General Leopoldo Galtieri, who took over as President of Argentina last December. But it is still not clear whether he intends to take coercive action against the islanders if he does not get a satisfactory response from Britain, or whether he is primarily using the issue to drum up support inside Argentina.

As a last resort, Argentina has the military capacity to take over the islands, which are about 300 miles from the mainland. There are only about 1,800 inhabitants, defended by a Royal Marines platoon and a force of local volunteers, in all a total of fewer than 100 men.

The Falkland Islands are a group of islands in the South Atlantic Ocean, about 300 miles from the mainland of Argentina. They are a British overseas territory and are defended by the Royal Marines. The islands are home to about 1,800 people and are a popular holiday destination for British tourists.

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Pathologist tells women to avoid IUDs

From Christopher Thomas New York, March 4

An American pathologist is urging the three million American women who use intrauterine devices to find another form of contraception.

Dr. Prabodh Gupta says the devices can cause infertility and life-threatening infections. He says the organism *Actinomyces* thrives in the environment created by the devices. "Every IUD can cause this organism. I would not tell my sister, my wife or my daughter to use an IUD."

His research findings are published in the latest issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. He says that only about 10 per cent of women using the devices show no signs of being infected with *Actinomyces*. Childless women should not use the devices because they could distort and scar the uterus and fallopian tubes, leading to permanent infertility.

Dr. Gupta of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland, said today that women who use the devices should undergo an annual smear test for the detection of *Actinomyces*, which can spread to the liver, intestines and brain. "As long as you have a foreign body in the uterus you are going to have problems with it," he added.

An 18-year-old girl who claims she became seriously ill through using menstrual tampons has begun a \$2m (£1.1m) damages suit against the makers, Procter and Gamble (Reuters reports).

Lawyers for Debra Dawn Lampshire claim the tampons caused her to suffer toxic shock syndrome, a potentially fatal condition.

The Lampshire case is the first of 200 filed against tampon manufacturers to come to court.

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Turks asked to spare unionists

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg, March 4

The anti-apartheid Progressive Federal Party (PFP) made striking gains in yesterday's municipal and rural council elections in the Transvaal, but failed by one seat to wrest control of Johannesburg, South Africa.

The weekly *Die Zeit* is treating its readers to the ultimate course: "Unlearn English" with Denis Thatcher.

For the next 12 weeks they will be taught to speak airily of wootahs, yobboes and tinctures, which, they are assured, is the jargon of British clubs, stately homes and managerial suites.

Die Zeit calls it "Denisich" because, it maintains, no one speaks it better than Mr. Denis Thatcher, husband of the Prime Minister. It admits it is heavily indebted to *Private Eye*, the satirical magazine, whose regular "Dear Bill" feature evidently amounts to a basic textbook of the language.

The daunting task of initiating Germans into the meaning of force eighthers, reading the Riot Act and the TTFN has been taken on by Herr Karl Heinz Wocker, *Die Zeit's* London correspondent, a keen observer of Britain's weird social customs.

Herr Wocker assures readers that Mr. Thatcher really speaks like this — he personally has heard him say "God this for a lark" which is German (approximately) "Verflucht und Zugenacht".

In his introductory article Herr Wocker warns Germans to be careful where they use "Denisich".

"Please do not tell your London taxi driver: 'Take me to your talking shop' when you want to go the Commons, and if you are looking for the vicarage in an idyllic village, for heaven's sake don't ask for the 'sky pilot'."

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Bandit chief dies in shootout

Dehli. — One of India's most notorious bandit chiefs has been killed in a gunbattle with police. Thirteen of his men and a policeman also died in a seven-hour chase and final showdown (Trevor Fishlock writes).

According to reports here gang leader Chhabra, who had a 100,000 rupee (£5,000) price on his head, was discovered by Uttar Pradesh police near Mainpuri, about 150 miles south-east of Dehli. He and his men fled with police in pursuit. They ran all day and were cornered in a village last night. The final shootout lasted for 90 minutes.

Chhabra had been a bandit for 30 years and was wanted for scores of murders and kidnappings. When the battle was over police recovered from the bandits a light machine gun and several automatic rifles.

Oil rig found upside down

St John's, Newfoundland. The oil drilling rig Ocean Ranger, which disappeared on February 15 with the loss of 84 lives, Mobil Oil Canada, said.

"Although the data is sketchy and inconclusive, it has been determined the rig is lying upside down in about 265ft of water some 300ft east of the wellhead," the company said, adding that divers in two widgee submarines had taken pictures of the wreck.

Turks asked to spare unionists

Geneva. — The International Labour Organization has appealed to Turkey not to impose death sentences on 32 trade unionists on trial in Istanbul.

The ILO's freedom of association said leaders of the Disk trade union federation were being tried in military courts, Turkey's Government, which regarded the trade unionists as terrorists, had not adequately responded to ILO inquiries. It also said that a lawyer for Disk, Mrs. Yurdumci, had both legs broken under torture last year.

The plane now arriving...

Dar es Salaam. — A planeload of Tanzanians who set off on a 500-mile internal flight have finally arrived here — a week and 9,500 miles later.

Passengers and crew of the hijacked Air Tanzania aircraft returned from London in the same Boeing 737 which was forced to Nairobi, Jeddah, Athens and finally, London, where the authorities held the aircraft and persuaded the hijackers to surrender. A crowd of several thousand broke into cheers as the aircraft touched down at Dar es Salaam international airport carrying 71 passengers and crew.

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New en...
Namibia...
Fugitive for 3...
aces firing se...
From Michael Hornsby

New effort to find Namibia formula

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, March 4

The five-nation Western contact group is to make a new attempt within the next few days to resolve a problem which is holding up final agreement on the first phase of their revised settlement plan for Namibia (South-West Africa).

The problem centres on the "one-man-two-votes" proposal for constituent assembly elections which will precede the granting of independence to the disputed territory.

Under this dual election system half the seats in the constituent assembly would be filled by proportional representation and the other half by single-member constituencies. The aim is to make it more difficult for the South West Africa People's Organization (Swapo) to obtain the two-thirds majority in the assembly needed for constitutional changes and thereby to provide assurances to South Africa and the United States, France, West Germany and Canada — are now considering ways to get around this impasse.

One option would be for the contact group to go back to the black states and try to convince them that the election plan is not as complicated as it appears and will not produce a result that is undemocratic.

Another option would be for the five Western nations to ask South Africa to accept a revised election procedure. This would not go down well with Pretoria which in the past has accused the Western nations of double-dealing and of going back on points which had already been agreed.

Only when agreement had been reached on this issue can talks begin in earnest on the second phase of the Western plan involving the actual setting up of elections. This more complex task is expected to be even more difficult than the first phase.

Meanwhile, Mr David Rockefeller, the retired chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank, has called for a resumption of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Marxist regime in Angola. He said during a 10-nation South African tour he did not think African Marxism threatened American interests.

The United States has linked the establishment of normal relations with the withdrawal of between 15,000 and 20,000 Cuban troops from Angola.

□ Pretoria: South Africa denied an official Angolan report that Swapo guerrillas had destroyed a 10-nation South African base at Okahango in Namibia in a battle last Saturday (AFP reports). A Defence Ministry spokesman said there was no such camp.

Indonesia 'banished' 4,000 to island

Jakarta, March 4.—Indonesia

transported 4,000 people from East Timor to a tiny island after a military operation against East Timor Guerrillas of the Fretilin independence movement, a Red Cross official said today. Mr David Delapraz, an International Red Cross regional delegate, added that he and a team from the organization last month interviewed some of the 806 families, moved in 1981 and now officially described as temporarily displaced.

He refused to comment on their condition. They were seen by his team on Atauro Island, in the South Banda sea 20 miles from Dili, capital of East Timor, the former Portuguese colony.

The annexation, not recognized by the United Nations, was followed by fighting between Indonesian troops and Fretilin guerrillas which has continued intermittently. Mr Delapraz said the Red Cross would give the Indonesian Government tomorrow a confidential report.

Mr Delapraz said the Red Cross, concerned by possible victims among the civil population, first asked to visit Atauro in October amid reports that many people had been displaced in an East Timor military sweep. Indonesian officials said most of the East Timor nationals moved there had been sent for security reasons and some for their own protection. — Reuters.



Child's play: A youthful member of Chad's regular Army ready for battle with insurgents.

Peruvian province declares state of emergency

Lima, March 4. — The Peruvian province of Ayacucho has declared a state of emergency for the second time in six months after 14 people were killed in an attack on a prison by left-wing guerrillas in which more than 200 inmates were freed.

Constitutional guarantees were suspended and large numbers of police with extra powers of search and arrest were rushed to the provincial capital 190 miles south east of Lima.

Officials said 12 guerrillas and two prison guards were killed when attackers armed with machine guns and dynamite stormed the prison on Tuesday.

The assault by suspected members of a Maoist group called Sendero Luminoso (Lighted Path), was the most serious incident of guerrilla violence since the restoration of democracy 19 months ago.

General José Gagliardi, the Interior Minister, said: "We are faced with a force which

is much better prepared than we thought".

Ayacucho, a remote, Andean mountain province, has been the focus of extremist violence since President Fernando Belaunde Terry assumed office in July, 1980 after 12 years of military rule.

A 60-day state of emergency was imposed in the province last October after a rash of bomb attacks. Police rounded up hundreds of suspects and claimed to have

eradicated most of the guerrilla cells.

The province's calm was shattered on Sunday when a first attempt was made to free the guerrilla suspects from Ayacucho's jail. Four prisoners were killed and an escape was foiled.

Two nights later about 150 guerrillas took part in the second assault. Using dynamite to blast open the prison gates, they burst inside chanting "Long live the armed struggle" and "Long live communism". — Reuters.

Hongkong Bahais petition for asylum

From Our Correspondent Hongkong, March 4

Several Iranians of the Baha'i faith living in Hongkong are seeking sanctuary in other countries after being ordered by the Tehran Government to return home to face charges over unspecified crimes.

The group, believed to number less than a dozen among the estimated 1,500 Bahais in Hongkong, are seeking status in Hongkong and elsewhere, fearing they will be the next victims of a "religious purge with political significance" if they return to Iran, Mr Steve Townsend, their Hongkong spokesman, said.

At least 100 Bahais — whose religious sect believes in the oneness of God, world government, sexual equality and the importance of education — have been executed in Iran under the Islamic regime.

The Hongkong Bahais, who strongly deny any anti-revolution actions, fear execution by firing squad as "Zionist agents" if they return to Iran. "Iranian Bahais have always been labelled as supporters of the Zionist group and anti-revolutionaries", Mr Townsend said.

The Iranian consulate in Hongkong, which confirms the recalls, has told the group that their passports will not be renewed when they expire next month.

Yugoslavia warns Belgium

From Dena Trevisan Belgrade, March 4

The Yugoslav Government has reacted strongly to the attack by gunmen in Brussels, in which two Yugoslavs were killed and several wounded, by accusing the Belgian authorities of doing nothing to hinder terrorist attacks.

In a sharply worded protest that reflects serious apprehension at continuing anti-Yugoslav activities, especially since last year's ethnic riots in the Kosovo region, the Yugoslav Government gave a warning that relations between Belgrade and Brussels were being seriously affected.

Yesterday the gunmen walked into the Yugoslav cultural club in Brussels, pulled out a sub-machine gun, killed two men and injured at least three others, and escaped in a waiting car.

Yugoslavia now claims that despite its warning to Belgium of continuing acts of terrorism against Yugoslav diplomats and migrant workers, the Belgian authorities have failed to take matters more firmly in hand. Belgrade also accused the Belgians of leniency, which is regarded here as encouraging incidents like yesterday's.

Behind this apprehension lies the fact that the Yugoslavs have been expecting some serious demonstration by ethnic Albanians to mark the anniversary of the Kosovo riots which began last March at the university there.

Since then there has been a series of incidents in Belgium against Yugoslav diplomats and institutions: a bomb exploded in the Yugoslav Airlines office, there was arson in the Yugoslav tourist bureau, and several clubs of Yugoslav migrant workers were attacked, culminating in the assassination of a member of the Yugoslav embassy.

Church tells of torture in Bolivia

From John Enders La Paz, March 4

The Roman Catholic Church in Bolivia says it has proof that prisoners in the paramilitary security jail of La Paz are regularly subjected to brutal torture despite President Celso Torrello Villa's pledge that his government fully respects human rights.

The allegations are contained in a written report to the bishops' meeting in Santa Cruz de la Sierra from the archdiocese's ecumenical aid office, established to aid political prisoners and their families.

It says the 80 prisoners in the La Paz jail have been tortured in recent days: "The statistical balance of repression shows that, far from having entered a period of social peace, the population overall lives subjected to the constant threat of arrest and torture."

Several Argentine advisers and at least one Italian citizen were said to be members of the interrogation teams working with the security apparatus here since the military seized power in July, 1980, in a coup led then by former-president Luis Garcia Meza.

General Torrello came to power on September 4 but many observers, including foreign diplomats and military men in the Government, say he is not fully in control of the security agents working with the Interior Ministry.

Those sources say that Señor Freddy Quiroga, who heads the feared paramilitary apparatus once called the SES (Servicio Especial de Seguridad) but now renamed DIE (Direccion de Inteligencia del Estado) is for all practical purposes a man out of control.

He has been head of one paramilitary force or another for years.

Fugitive for 38 years faces firing squad

From Michael Binyon Moscow, March 4

For 38 years Maksim Poltavets escaped retribution for his part in the wartime execution of villagers by German occupation forces in the Ukraine. When the Red Army swept in to liberate his village, he shut himself away in his house, and he remained there in virtual darkness until a few weeks ago.

Now an old man of 71, he was discovered by neighbours and hauled before a village meeting, where several older people accused him of serving as a policeman with the Germans and killing the villagers of Novogelits and a group of Red Army soldiers. They voted to put him on trial. If found guilty, he will probably be shot.

A generation after the end of the war, fugitives are still being discovered in hiding. Last year the authorities found a 61-year-old man, almost blind, unshaven and dressed in rags, who had been hidden in a bunker by his family when Nazi troops withdrew from the Lvov region in 1944. He had worked for the occupation forces as a bricklayer and was branded as a collaborator by the local population.

Eventually his father and other close relatives died, and when police led him into daylight he had lost all sense of time. Unusually, it was decided not to punish him for the "misdeemeanours of his youth" and work was found for the old and broken man. But others do not escape

retribution. The Soviet Union is merciless in the pursuit of war criminals, and there is no statute of limitations to protect the guilty. Every year about a dozen people are shot for crimes committed 40 years ago.

Many war criminals are brought to light by painstaking investigation by the KGB security police and the study of captured wartime documents. In the turmoil of the German retreat from Russia, many of the thousands of collaborators managed to slip away and change their documents and identities.

The Russians frequently accuse the West of harbouring war criminals and being deliberately slack in prosecuting them. But the Soviet authorities are quick to cooperate in providing evidence for trials in the West.

In 1980 American government lawyers, investigating naturalized Americans suspected of having served as camp guards and policemen with the Nazis, were given help and documents here which they said could lead to the deportation of up to 350 people.

The Presidential Commission on the Jewish Holocaust was offered wide-ranging help in the Soviet Union. Three years ago the American Attorney-General told the Jewish organization B'nai B'rith that he had not had so much support in seeking war criminals from any other country.

To the 92 MPs of Greater London.

The Fares Fair Policy, introduced for Londoners on October 4th 1981, was meant to make the public transport systems more accessible to everyone. It increased efficiency through greater use of the available services. It allowed simpler, lower fares.

On March 21st 1982, fares will go up, signalling the end of what was a bold and imaginative piece of planning.

If nothing is done before March 21st, there will be some dramatic changes to the costs and quality of working and travelling in London. Fares will double. Uneconomic tube stations may close. Some bus services may have to go altogether. All services will be reduced.

Higher fares will result in more people driving to work, simply because their car will be cheaper to use. London's streets will be more jammed. There will be more rogue parking. More chaos. More accidents.

Is that fair on Londoners?

Most other cities in the modern world have decided long ago that public transport is a social service. As much a social service as hospitals and education.

New York subsidises to the tune of 72% of costs, excluding depreciation and renewal costs.

On the same basis, the figure for Milan is 71%. Brussels 70%. Paris 56%.

London, with the Fares Fair Policy, subsidised its public transport system by 46% — still way down in the League Table.

And, following the rulings of the Court of Appeal and the Law Lords, the subsidy figure for London's public transport will fall, after March 21st, to as little as 12%.

The cost of Fares Fair to the London ratepayer was almost doubled by the penalties imposed by the Government withholding block grant.

Is this fair on Londoners?

The issue of London's public transport system demands your immediate attention. It is not a political "football". It is a social issue with enormous implications on the present and future quality of life in London.

Changes to the law are necessary. Rational thinking makes that fact obvious.

Do you know how your own constituents feel about London Transport? Its value to the community as a whole? Its relevance to working and living in London in 1982? As ratepayers, as travellers — as Londoners?

We are asking them to contact you. Give them a fair hearing. And, as their elected representatives, act on their behalf for the good of London.

If you think your MP may miss this announcement, why not send it to him expressing your views? Fill in the coupon.

To: The Member of Parliament for
House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA.
I call on the Government to take immediate action to enable the GLC to maintain its present low fares policy without any reduction in services.

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....

Tell your MP to act NOW!

GLC
Working for London

School indiscipline: an end to corporal punishment and how teachers control bad behaviour

How do they keep order in class?

Indiscipline in schools has become an urgent topic since the suspension of teaching at St Saviour's C of E School in Tottexth, Liverpool, after riots by children under 12 years old. Meanwhile, the European Court of Human Rights has ruled that parents should give permission before children are beaten by teachers. And it is only the first of a series of judgments which will abolish the cane in British schools.

Caning and the European Court

The judges who will put a stop to whacking

The days of beatings — "le vice anglais", as it is known on the Continent — are numbered, at least in the classroom. Although there has been pressure for decades to abolish caning, it is the intervention of European judges sitting in Strasbourg to hammer the final nail into what has remained a remarkably lively coffin.

If last week's judgment by the European Court of Human Rights does not persuade the Government to abolish corporal punishment once and for all, a cluster of cases now in Strasbourg or about to go are bound to force its hand. This is because last week's decision did not actually look at whether beating was wrong in itself. It concerned two Scottish cases — those of Gordon Campbell and Jeffrey Cosans — who had not been beaten. Cosans was told to report for the belt after he had broken a rule but the school refused and was suspended from school. Campbell's mother had asked the regional education authority for an assurance that her son would not be belted but this was refused.

The European judges did not therefore rule on whether beating was an inhuman or degrading punishment contrary to Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. But they did rule that another provision of the convention had been breached: that parents have the right to have their children educated in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions. This means that parents now have the right to refuse to allow their children to be beaten at school.

Other cases lodged with the European Commission (this human rights structure has, incidentally, nothing to do with the EEC) are likely to result in full-scale abolition, because the Commission has already ruled in favour of parents. One case concerns another Scottish boy, Peter Brock, who received one stroke of the belt, allegedly for laughing in class. He was 15 at the time and attending Crieff High School, in Tayside.

Initially Brock refused to take the belt and says it was only after vigorous interrogation by the head and other teachers, and after he had been forced to sign a confession, that he agreed to be hit. He says he was forced to stand in the school entrance for some time while he thought about it and that he was excluded from school for several days. Eventually Brock left school, taking his O grades, the Scottish public exams, because he could stand the school no longer. His lawyers will be arguing that the incident affected his career prospects and that he should be handsomely compensated.

A second case, which is about to be filed in Strasbourg, concerns Alan Green, who at the age of 14 was caned and then slipped at his school, Abbs Cross comprehensive in the outer London borough of Havering. When he first started at the school his mother, Sylvia Green, wrote to the chairman of the education committee, the chief education officer and the school saying she did not want him beaten. She was informed he

● No other European country in the Eastern or Western block — officially retains corporal punishment in its schools as the British do, though it is thought unofficial beating does go on in some places.

On the Continent the practice has been abolished by legislative regulation or by falling into disuse. Apart from the United Kingdom, the last country in Europe to allow the beating of schoolchildren was the Republic of Iceland which banned the cane on February 1, this year.

The number of canings at Eaglesfield comprehensive school in Woolwich, south London, was averaging about 200 a term until corporal punishment was banned by the Inner London Education Authority almost exactly a year ago. Dr William Chapman, the head, was a great believer in the effectiveness of the cane as a means of maintaining a high standard of discipline throughout the school.

"We used it mostly for trivial offences like swearing, petty extortion, smoking, deliberate disobedience, bullying, and vandalism. Now we're using exclusion, or temporary suspension, instead of the cane. I feel sending a child home is far more damaging than a quick smack over the bottom, and the amount of teacher time involved is incredible. At the moment we're keeping our standards up, but my God at what a cost!" Dr Chapman said.

Yet, when pressed, Dr Chapman admits that apart from the extra pressure on teacher time, nothing seems to have changed much in the school, for better or worse, since the canings stopped. And that seems to be the experience of pro-caning heads in other parts of the country where corporal punishment has already been abolished.

So perhaps the decisions, past and imminent, of the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg, which are likely to herald the end of Britain's solitary position or the last caning nation in Europe, will make less effect school discipline and standards of behaviour than many teachers, and parents, fear.

But it is sense to impose a ban on a reluctant teacher? Dr John Rae, Head Master of Westminster School, is one of the sponsors of STOPP, the teachers' lobby group that has been campaigning for the abolition of corporal punishment, but is nevertheless firmly opposed to a dictat being delivered from Strasbourg.

"I feel the issue has been hyped up quite out of perspective. An awful lot of nonsense is talked by both the opponents and supporters of corporal punishment. It's nothing like so important as people make out. It is neither as damaging nor as essential as it's said to be. I think schools should be allowed to decide for themselves what form of discipline suits them best."

Many schools have found that corporal punishment has been doing a good job. Mr David Silk, Warden of Radley, said he used to use the cane, but it's just gone out of fashion. People are reluctant to indulge in something which only 15 years ago was very normal. We've never said we won't use it, but I don't think I myself have beaten a boy for five years. I don't feel terribly strongly about it, but I think I now feel that it's slightly distasteful.

Mr Tim Mardell, head of High Storr's comprehensive school in Sheffield, argues that any change



Beak and birch: Spy's caricature of Swinburne's tutor, the Reverend James Leigh Jones, Lower Master of Eton 1878-1887.

involving attitudes needs time to be introduced. He started to reduce caning when he arrived at the school 15½ years ago, and only just completed its abolition 18 months ago. Fourteen years may be considered rather excessive, but some time is important to gain the acceptance of teachers, parents and pupils.

"It's best to get rid of corporal punishment slowly, quietly and without a fuss," Mr Mardell says. "It's no good rushing it. When pupils are used to being beaten, they expect it. If they're not beaten, they assume that it is somehow an indication of weakness on the part of the school."

Other schools in Sheffield will not enjoy such a leisurely transition: the council has just

the parents being told and brought into school for an interview with the head teacher, and that can result in a worse thrashing for the child than he would ever have got at school. However, other schools say that many of their pupils are all too happy to get a few free days off school. It also disrupts the education of those who probably need it most.

The ultimate sanction, which may only be used with the approval of the school governors, is the suspension or expulsion of the child. Although a complete change of environment can produce a beneficial change in behaviour, particularly where a gang of miscreants are broken up, suspension is not liked and is used extremely sparingly. It involves a public admission by the school that it has failed with that child, and also too often, the suspended child is left free to roam the streets for some time before another school willing to accept him is found.

Another means of dealing with disruptive pupils has become increasingly popular over the last few years: the special behavioural unit, either on the school premises or off-site, which has been dubbed the "sin-bin" by the popular press. Some are no better than their nickname suggests, convenient dumping ground for unruly pupils; others do an excellent job in winning the children's confidence and trust, and getting regular attendance.

All are limited in their usefulness, however. They are expensive, with a high ratio of staff to pupils and, being relatively small, can only offer a very restricted educational diet with the result that it becomes increasingly difficult to get pupils back into ordinary schooling the longer they stay. The HM Inspectorate for schools (HMI) view is that pupils should only be removed from school as a last resort.

So what can schools do to maintain good discipline? People were synonymous with sanctions; it is not no more than good discipline in the home is. It depends, as in the home, on the many, often not easily discernable, factors that make up on the whole climate of the school, or what has been termed since Professor Michael Rutter's now world famous research on the effect of secondary schools, as the "ethos" of the school.

Professor Rutter found in his intensive, longitudinal study of 12 inner London schools, pupils who have still much to learn about what makes a good school. "Fifteen hundred hours", that some schools produced better behaved, better-educated pupils than others, even after allowance had been made for variables like the children's home background and level of intelligence. Why? There appears to be no correlation between the level or type of punishment in a school and the behaviour, educational progress or attendance rates of pupils, save in schools with high rates of corporal punishment.

Exclusion, or banning a child from attending school for up to three days, is also widely used. Some schools find that it is an effective deterrent, as it involves the child being told and brought into school for an interview with the head teacher, and that can result in a worse thrashing for the child than he would ever have got at school. However, other schools say that many of their pupils are all too happy to get a few free days off school. It also disrupts the education of those who probably need it most.

where behaviour appears to be rather worse than in other schools.

Nor did factors like school size, different types of organization, quality and age of the premises, or the amount of space available, seem to have any significant effect.

The most important characteristics that appeared to promote both good conduct and academic success appeared to be relatively minor things like teacher arriving on time for class; good preparation of lessons; the regular setting and marking of homework; a lot of praise and encouragement of pupils; and not too much disciplinary action — but, when taken, firm teachers setting a good example in dress and behaviour; even the display of pupils' work on walls and flowers in the entrance hall — all the things that helped make up the school's ethos.

What Professor Rutter said was not new; but he had produced quantifiable evidence, albeit on a very small scale, and using a form of multiple regression analysis that was later questioned by other education researchers. Two years earlier, the HMI had come out with a similar view in their report on "Ten Good Schools".

There appears to be no ideal set of rules or regulations. What is appropriate and effective in one school may not be in another. Much will depend on the expectations of the local community, the quality of the staff, the style of the head, the traditions of the school, and the age of the pupils.

But it is generally agreed that whatever set of rules is adopted must be explicitly stated, consistent, reasonable and firmly adhered to by the staff. It is also essential that the children respect their teachers, and that respect is immeasurably more difficult to obtain than in the past. It is no longer something that is given unquestioningly as the teacher's due.

Pupil violence and misconduct are often blamed on too much permissiveness in schools and society at large. However, the HMI found in their recent survey of secondary schools that less than 10 per cent were too permissive, while they considered nearly one fifth of schools to be too authoritarian in that they were so bogged down with petty rules and regulations and so rigid in their teaching styles that they actually provoked confrontations. But we have still much to learn about what makes a good school and why. How individual teachers handle potentially disruptive pupils is one of the areas about which we know little. Dr Williams Parry-Jones, consultant psychiatrist at the Warneford Hospital in Oxford, who has been carrying out research in this area, says that nearly all teachers see disruptive behaviour as a product of the pupil's disturbance, while he believes that it is part of a dynamic relationship between the teacher and the pupil.

The pupil may initiate an incident with some relatively minor act, but from then on the teacher plays a very important part in exacerbating or abating the incident. Once it has started, it seems to develop a life of its own, as it were, which may however be modified by the response from the teacher or the pupil. We've analysed that sequence in great detail on videotape, looking for the critical transition points at which matters might either improve or get out of control. I think disruption can be handled effectively, and that teachers can be trained to do so, but virtually no teacher training course provides that training."

Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The practice abroad: most have abandoned the British need to beat

Outside Europe, however, corporal punishment is fairly widespread and continues in the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and much of the Third World. STOPP, the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment, points out that these countries are former British colonies.

The USA
In America only four states and 11 cities have abolished corporal punishment though in one or two other states parents' objections must be honoured. Five years ago the

US Supreme Court gave its seal of approval to the cane by ruling that its use as a disciplinary tool was not cruel and unusual punishment, denying children so disciplined protection under the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution.

The case, Ingraham v Wright, was a 5-4 decision and was decided by the narrowest possible margin (five votes to four). In reality corporal punishment is not widely used in the USA and tends to be concentrated in certain areas, such as the deep South.

Canada
Three out of Canada's 10 provinces have abolished corporal punishment and in Australia it is universal. It has been abolished for girls and in New South Wales where parental objections must be upheld.

Europe
By contrast, four European countries — Greece, Italy, Iceland and Luxembourg — say that corporal punishment has never been allowed in their schools. In Poland it was abolished in 1783 and in

The Netherlands it fell into disuse early last century. Corporal punishment was made illegal in Belgium in 1867, in Austria in 1870 and in France in 1881. It was abolished in the Soviet Union in 1917, immediately after the Bolshevik Revolution, and in Turkey in 1923 after the declaration of the Republic. By contrast, flogging with the cat o' nine tails and the birch was only abolished in English prisons in 1976.

Some European countries abolished corporal punishment in schools in the same year. Cyprus, Denmark

and Spain acted in 1967. In Germany abolition has been implemented by state rather than federal legislation during the 1970s. Although technically legal in Switzerland, corporal punishment has completely died out in recent years. It was prohibited in Sweden in 1958 and three years ago the Swedes went even further. They outlawed the beating of children by parents. There are no penalties attached to the new law, however, and prosecutions are brought under existing laws covering assault.

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THE ARTS

Television

Recycling exercise

Nick Mead runs an architecture relief service. He moves in with his men when some period piece is being demolished and removes the memories of craftsmanship long gone.

He told *Forty Minutes*, who covered his activities in *Saves in the Nick of Time* on BBC2 last night, that he did it for money but also because preservation is a worthwhile way of earning a living, and he was entirely convincing. He has learnt that "the bigger the lot, the fewer the customers", but despite this allows romanticism to override economics and even rescues things he knows "have great white elephant potential". One such was a marble fountain with beauteous embellishments that could impede progress around his Chelsea warehouse for some time.

He would prefer that Britain retained her relics but as there is not that much money about and as business in any period is business, he has to recycle much of his salvage in America where the appetite for things of yore, anybody's yore, is voracious.

So an old sweeping staircase is packaged for Mr Douglas's Heaven on Earth establishment in Houston, an interesting-sounding place that caters for the matched and despatched, being both a marriage parlour and a funeral parlour.

Mr Mead did not see Mrs Douglas too busy, I should think — but we did see Mrs Bobby Wolfe whose husband, Fletcher, is founder and director of the Atlanta Boy Choir. The boys were singing "Nymphs and Shepherds" out in the garden, which was full of roses from here and there, including a porch rescued by Mr Mead from a Victorian house in Beckenham. "Fletcher and I have been recycling since before we were married," confided Mrs Wolfe, and it started for a moment before the camera moved from her to the trophies.

However, some things do stay at home. We saw a torso being hoisted high at Canterbury Cathedral, recycled from a peal of bells from a disused church at Marylebone, and a clock from the same church now in working order. The clock cost £198 10s to make in the middle of the 19th century, now it would cost £12,500. It was a bargain at £1,500. Then there was the belle époque conservatory which somehow found its way from France to Knightsbridge.

Mr Mead earns his living quite often, as when removing the clock, at some risk. Apart from the feeling that he is doing a good job, it has a certain dramatic sound of breaking glass," he said, "can be very satisfying at times". This contribution to the *Forty Minutes* series, which is also to have an extended life, was well produced by Robyn Wallis.

Dennis Hackett

Cinema

Emotional touch of the old master

On Golden Pond (A)

Odeon, Haymarket

Mad Max II (X)

Warner West End, Classic, Haymarket, Studio, Oxford Circus

Imposters

ICA

Dear Boys

Roxie Cinema Club

On *Golden Pond* is a return to a kind of film — the well-made screenplay that uses all its artifice to manipulate the audience's laughter and tears — that long ago went out of style. It also revives the almost forgotten pleasure of yielding up our emotions to be worked over as the body might be submitted to the hands of a skillful masseur. Audiences apparently have only been waiting for the chance. In the United States, *On Golden Pond* has earned \$40m in four weeks and stays impregnable at the top of *Variety's* chart of top-grossing pictures.

Directed by Mark Rydell, it is adapted by Ernest Thompson from his own Broadway play, one of a whole run of productions designed to show the virtuosity of older stars. Henry Fonda and Katharine Hepburn play Norman and Ethel Thayer, an old couple eking out their last years in a summer cottage by an idyllic forest lake, which harbours a whole lifetime of memories for them. It is his eightieth birthday — they get here so fast. His body and mind are failing, he fiercely resents the humiliations of age and employs all his ingenuity and wit to rail against them. His wife, ten years younger, is patient, protective and defiant in her energy and enthusiasm for life.

Their daughter, Chelsea (Jane Fonda), arrives for the birthday party, bringing her fiancé and a load of old resentments against her father. She also brings her 12-year-old prospective stepson whom she rashly leaves to spend the summer with the old couple. The rest of the film, of course, is concerned with the understanding that grows up between the hostile child and the grumpy old man as a bond that leapfrogs the generations and, in a gratifying pat dénouement, achieves the reconciliation between father and daughter that all their years together had failed to bring about.

The daughter, though Jane Fonda uses all her skill, is rather brusquely sketched; but the relationship of the three characters is wonderfully deft in the writing, and admirably played. Henry Fonda and Katharine Hepburn never acted together in their youth (indeed they seem never to have even met) until they came together on this film, but in their age they are a magical teaming. The poignancy of the characters is heightened by awareness of the actors' own fragility, but physical frailty in no way impairs their professional skills or personal glamour.

He is touchy, watchful, witty, devastatingly precise in timing and delivery. She soars along on her own momentum and dazzles with sudden intimations of infinite depths of feeling beneath the



A bond that leapfrogs the generations: Doug McKean with Henry Fonda

eccentric surfaces. The small boy, Doug McKean, makes a wholly equal third to the team. He is round-faced, blond, suspicious and wholly believable in the slow, unwilling process of making contact with another and very alien human being.

The reason this kind of piece, in which the manipulation of situation (an accident that puts Norman's life at peril; another near-death scene to wring tears; the day resolution of life-long misunderstandings) and consequently of our sentiments, has been so long mistrusted, is that sentimentality, manipulation and artifice are taken to imply untruth.

But the quality of this film, like a lot of older melodramas, is that the manipulation and artifice only work because the premises on which they are managed are in essence truthful. The characters are unquestionably truthful, and they are used to demonstrate truths as well as to mislead. There is a lot of real pain in Norman's fear and hatred of age ("I don't want crowds of people watching me turn older," he grouches at the prospect of a birthday party), even when it is expressed in a cry and tone that sometimes recall W. C. Fields. There is a sense of real love in their crotchety marital bicker. They tell us, too, that the assumed obligation to like one's relatives can often mean hell; that a quizzical old man may well have been a younger s.o.b. and now deserves to pay the price for it.

In an old-fashioned and positive sense, too, the film is very moral. It sets out quite consciously to persuade us that the old are human too, that they may still have things to teach, and love-life in them. It tells us (as Ethel Sayer teaches the child) "Sometimes you have to look hard at a person and realize he's doing the best he can." They are old moral lessons, but not bad things to hear again when they are well said. Earlier films by Mark Rydell — *The*

Reluctant, *Cinderella Liberty* — showed the same direct, persuasive concern with the problems and rewards of simply trying to understand other people. He is generous with charm and pleasures; the performers are given a background of elegant mood and scenery (the lake and the photographed by Billy Williams) in predominant twilight gold. These are the sort of frank and innocent pleasures about which it would be foolish to be superior or defensively sophisticated.

Mad Max II offers the most extreme contrast. The original *Mad Max* was made for peanuts, but the startling skill of its director, George Miller, in directing violent action made it the biggest grossing film Australia had so far exported. The sequel has the benefit of a great deal more money, has a great deal more violent action, handled with the same verve and culminating in a prolonged automobile chase, and carries Australian movies to a new stage of infantism.

The action of the new film takes place a year or so further into the future predicted by its predecessor. Global conflict escalating from the Middle East has wiped out urban civilization. Wild — marauding gangs — ageing punks and cycle boys — roam the outback, and make sorties against a little outpost huddled around a solitary oil drill, the last source of wealth. Into this country rides *Mad Max*, as an unwilling Moses who eventually leads the people to the promised land — the tourist resorts of the Queensland Gold Coast.

It amalgamates every sort of movie myth, magic and reference. The plot is classic Western, and some of the characters are vaguely garbed as braves and squaws. There are touches of martial arts and sword-and-sorcery (the villains wear visors and use crossbows); there is a Shakespearean fool who rides a helicopter; and plays Sancho to Max's Don; and a feral cave-child.

Above all there are the cars — roaring, chasing, colliding, crashing, conflagrating. It is in its way a landmark of the cinema of action without sense.

Mark Rappaport is much admired in certain circles of independent cinema; a couple of years ago his *Scenic Route* won the BFI award for the most original film shown at the National Film Theatre during the previous twelve months. His films exemplify effect and allusion without structure to give coherence or compulsion to the whole.

Imposters, his latest film of feature scale, has the outward form of Hollywood melodrama and is packed with movie-buff references. The twin protagonists are stage illusionists using their act as a front for murder and a quest for lost treasure. One of them fancies his assistant; the other her boyfriend; while she herself is involved with another girl. It is pretty and cute and sounds a great deal more intriguing than in fact it is.

Those who see London as a new City of the Plains may well be cheered that the Roxie Club, established only a matter of weeks ago to show quality films on homoerotic themes, is threatened with closure for lack of support. It will give less satisfaction to those who have welcomed several worthwhile oddities that might never have turned up elsewhere in this country.

The Roxie's new (and let us hope not final) presentation is an idiosyncratic item from Holland, Paul de Lussanet's *Dear Boys*, adapted from a novel by the scandalizing writer Gerard Reve. It is an elegant erotic game about a writer who woos — but fails to keep — a handsome gigolo, with tales of fast cars and sadomasochistic fantasies of wanton youths. The light tone and witty playing redeem the erotica from grossness.

David Robinson

Concerts

A tricky acoustic

LSO/Abbado

Barbican Hall/BBC, Radio 3

The new concert hall in the Barbican Centre seats its audience at three levels, the front row very close indeed to the low dais on which the orchestra sits. The Queen sat in the front row of the circle; behind and above that is a further circle. Leg room, at the back of the stalls, is ample for a tall person; the seats encourage upright posture, are softly upholstered, and wide enough for this fat Englishman's hips.

When you are seated, the appearance of the auditorium is bright and striking, with peanut butter-coloured wood on the gangway steps and behind the orchestra, the latter's facing curiously shaped to suggest oriental woodwind, or perhaps the pipes of an organ which, we gather, is not there. Above and to the side are red and white curved wooden surfaces which look like Battersea cake.

In the ceiling the lights are enclosed in what look like inverted brandy balloon glasses, a sparkling effect. On the wood-faced side walls there are small vents, as if for boxes, although they are not for occupation.

I hope that the hum of air-conditioning may be silenced in the auditorium before the next concert: it is a nuisance at the beginning of Elgar's Cello Concerto. For an orchestra as finely tuned as the LSO is when playing for Claudio Abbado, the acoustics of Barbican Hall are trick at the moment, perhaps more for the audience than for the orchestra. The opening bars of Wagner's *Meistersinger* overture sounded reassuring, big and round in tone, more appetizing than they would in the Royal Festival Hall, the woodwind chirped vividly in the apprentices' section. At other times the string sound was unnaturally shrill, and cantabile violins seemed to lack body in Beethoven's fourth piano concerto.

It should be emphasized that Barbican audiences will be able to return their ears during early visits to the hall: the LSO will surely also find new ranges of sonority and balance, as it looks forward to future concerts when it may be possible to hear the same orchestra from different parts of the auditorium.

This first concert offered Wagner and Beethoven, as detailed above, then Elgar's Cello Concerto and Ravel's *La valse*, nothing composed later than the early 1920s: the most recent composer represented was Sir Michael Tippett, who had written the programme notes for the concert (very interesting too, but should not be, or a living compatriot, have contributed a new composition to this momentous, exciting event in London's life?).

The emphasis was plainly on London as an international centre of music, with an Italian conductor in charge of the Barbican's resident orchestra, a Japanese cellist in the Elgar and a Russian-born pianist in the Beethoven. The cello and piano told well by themselves, curiously enough. Yo Yo Ma's account of the Elgar was as showy in self-expression as Vladimir Ashkenazy's reading of the Beethoven was intensely contained and understated.

Both were contributions to an occasion rather than interpretations to remember for ever. The players have the opportunity, too, of changing their minds: a welcome feature of Barbican musical programmes is that each work will be performed several times in various concert contexts.

One's first and most influential impression of the Barbican centre as a place for listening to music is of the grand design in which the agreeable and novel concert hall is tucked away seemingly in a corner of the labyrinth. Barbican Hall itself is ripe for exploration, like the complex as a whole. Certainly it will make London's musical life richer, and probably more exciting, to add to the first syllabus for the opening weeks.

William Mann

BBCSO/Stockhausen

Festival Hall

On Wednesday Karlheinz Stockhausen made his first appearance in public with a British orchestra. The Purcell Room was sold out for his pre-concert talk, and there were not enough programmes for an audience considerably larger than that for most BBCSO concerts. The 89-piece orchestra assembled, two mime artists, Elizabeth Clarke and Alain Louafi, poised on a raised dais above the conductor, knelt before their maker and *lori*, "adorations for one or two soloists with orchestra", began.

At the heart of the 70-minute work is embedded a musical germ or "formula"

which, as in Stockhausen's earlier *Makros*, encapsulates the work's basic energy. Here, though, the process of genesis before it appears complete is further systematized and expanded through a fantastically ingenious and sensitive scheme of metre, instrumental timbre, dynamic and finally pitch. The ear is taught to recognize a seemingly inexhaustible pattern of attributes which the eye endorses in a corresponding chromatic scale of 13 prayer gestures which translate sound into "action melody".

Not until after the "formula" has been presented and its consequent harmonic and polyphonic evolution set into motion could I engage with the work at anything but a cerebral level. For all its emphasis on ritual, on performance, for all its freshness of sound and perception, extended through electronic sound projection (Stockhausen's son Markus as the controls), Stockhausen's the laborious didacticism of the work's idea, only emphasized by the mimed visual aids, seemed irritatingly self-conscious, at times even condescending.

As the latter half progresses and the music's internal energies and conflicts are hatched from idea, the sense of adoration, of wonder at least at the workings of the composer's own microworld burgeons and begins to engage outside itself. But it seemed too late. As composer-conductor walked off, following the upward path through the orchestra taken by the mime artists, the applause had a character all its own. Here was solid respect, flecked with the calls of hero-worship, yet strangely lacking in warmth or spontaneous enthusiasm.

Hilary Finch

Dance

Martins confirmed in Balanchine's favour



Peter Martins himself with Darci Kistler in "The Magic Flute"

with audiences, has been considerably amended, and its amplifications are generally a considerable improvement. With new settings by David Mitchell and pleasant peasant costumes by Ben Benson, the ballet looks attractive and even modestly attractive, a rarity for the decoratively spartan City Ballet.

Yet why Martins, or perhaps more specifically Balanchine, wanted this antique caricature in the repertoire remains a mystery. The idea came from Balanchine himself, with Martins acting strictly on orders. Obviously Balanchine has some vestigial nostalgic affection for this ballet which, with music by Riccardo Drigo, was first staged at St Petersburg's Maryinsky in 1893. It received a chilly reception but remained somehow in the repertoire and it seems that, as a young dancer growing up in Petrograd, Balanchine on occasion appeared in both

the leading male roles. So much for sentiment.

After its initial production in St Petersburg, it had its New York premiere 20 years later with Anna Pavlova and Alexandre Volinine. The ballet seemed to have died with Pavlova, but there were some apparently unwilling to accept as much. What Martins has done is, of course, not a revival of the lost Ivanov choreography, but a pastiche reconstruction that draws, to some extent, on Martins's Danish schooling and his familiarity with the narrative ballets of Bournonville.

Martins's recreation of the ballet, while possibly unnecessary in the first place — although even that is arguable since it adds to the thin variety of the repertoire — has been achieved uncommonly well. Despite the boring score, Martins has used the simple story — boy, with help of passing god and magic instrument, gets girl away from parents and

marauding marquis — for an exercise of style, his own and the company's. Its bucolic humour is as daffy and campily acceptable as the ballet should prove popular.

In the premiere the leading roles were buoyantly danced by the 17-year-old Darci Kistler and, unexpectedly, Peter Martins, who was substituting for an injured Helgi Tomasson, himself substituting for an injured Ib Andersen. At later performances, Tomasson recovered, giving a more animated account of the hero, partnering the 19-year-old Katrina Killian, who had created the role at the original school performances. The Massine-like character part of the Marquis was brightly taken by another young newcomer, Bruce Padgett.

If you wanted to be cute, you could suggest that Jerome Robbins had created a time and motion study in *The Gershwin Concerto*, his just new ballet which has just

been given its world premiere. Yet cuteness was the last thing in Robbins's mind in this complex, scintillating and oddly engaging ballet.

It is Robbins at his most masterly. Over the four decades he has worked as a choreographer, Robbins has captured two things. The first is the art of choreographic characterization — the realization that dancing is an extension of people, not an exploitation of them. His second area of mastery is in the matter of musical visualization.

Consider this new ballet — demonstrating "Gershwin's time and Robbins's motion. The mood of the music — its varied texture — is strange. "Symphonic jazz" set out to combine popular dance forms with classical music. The mixture never gelled, but in the Gershwin Piano Concerto, as in his folk opera *Porgy and Bess*, can be seen all the grounds for the unfounded optimism. Robbins takes the Concerto on its own terms and premises in the Charleston-impregnated first movement, the bluesy second and the uninhibited jazziness of the last.

The ballet is placed against a blue and lavender art deco setting by Santo Loquasto. A handsome "adaptable" background redolent of 1925, the time of the concerto, changes for each movement. Loquasto's simple costumes, rust for the boys, plum for the girls and white for the four principals, appropriately strike up a more contemporary band. The choreography cleverly uses counterpointed movements to define the music, particularly the piano and orchestra. In style it is classical yet not only uses such natural movements as walking, running or — perhaps less natural — waltzing, but also enlivens the piece with wild flashes of invention, such as an instant when Christopher d'Amboise whirls a swooned Darci Kistler around his shoulder.

Clive Barnes

Opera

Nina Playhouse, Oxford

Of all the composers who tried to write opera in an age that had been made for Mozart, Paisiello was one of the most successful, and *Nina*, or *Mad for Love* one of his most widely heard creations. It was first produced in 1789, the year before *Così fan tutte*, and it reached London in 1797, when this paper was entangled. The string of sensibility may be traced to the declared, "seldom ceases to vibrate to the electric touch of this exquisite composer."

Well, maybe. One of the virtues of Seamus McGreener's production for the Oxford University Opera Club, only the second revival anywhere in modern times, is that it is not by any means convinced Paisiello had, his

singer on the pulse of human feeling, and yet it shows how an eighteenth-century audience might have seen *Nina* as the last word in sentimental romance, for the opera played before two audiences, ourselves, and a Regency house party who are touched and amused when they are not singing the choruses. Without the constant presence, and the consequent double focus on the work, *Nina* would seem this stuff. In the first act, we are introduced to the heroine, who has declined into pastoral dissonance after the supposed death in a duel of her true love. She has a prettily melancholic aria which Clare Moll here sings beautifully, giving it sensitive expression and stylish ornamentation; the other gem is a quite extraordinary and wholly irrelevant shepherd's song accompanied only by a pair of oboes over a drone. Then, in the second act, *Nina's* Lindoro miraculously reappears and the couple are lengthily reunited.

As Lindoro, Brian Parsons was suffering from a throat infection, but he has a bright, light affecting voice, and Christina Collier is charming as *Nina's* maid, Nell Sissons, conducting, does his best with an orchestra and chorus of redemptive talent. There are further performances (in English, and with spoken dialogue as originally) tonight and on Saturday.

Paul Griffiths

James M. Cain's *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, already filmed three times, has now been turned into an opera. Stephen Paus's work will be given its premiere at the Opera Theatre of St Louis, Missouri, on June 17. There are plans to bring it to the Edinburgh Festival in 1983, together with St Louis's production of Delius's *Requiem* and Gerda, which was highly praised on this page last summer.

Also on this year's St Louis season is the American premiere of Prokofiev's *Maddalena*, of which Edward Downes has completed the orchestration.

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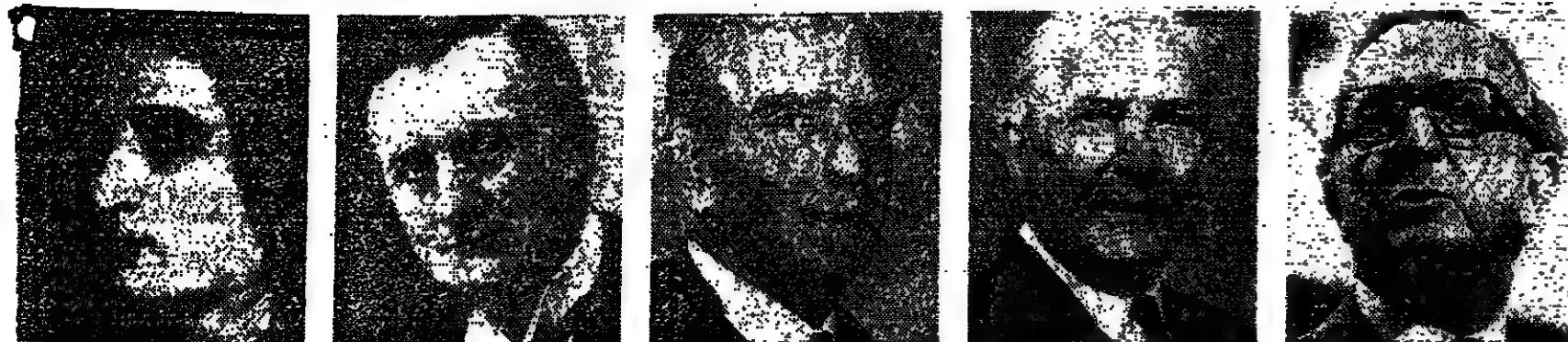
EXHIBITIONS

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Foreign Secretaries from the American Revolution to Zimbabwe



Charles James Fox (1782-83) — a humiliating treaty; Sir Edward Grey (1905-16) — foreign affairs dominated politics; Anthony Eden (1935-38, 1940-45, 1951-55), Selwyn Lloyd (1955-60), Lord Carrington (1979-) — coping with Britain's vulnerability to external events

200 cheers for the F.O.

by David Watt

The mild and suitably parsimonious rejoicings ordained by Authority this month to mark the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Foreign Office and the Home Office, will not, I suppose, be joined in with universal fervour even in Whitehall. The first of these great Departments of State has never been particularly popular in the world at large, still less in the rest of the official machine, by which it is traditionally regarded as stand-offish and too big for its boots; the second has become generally notorious (and not without some justification) for obscurantism and official ham-handedness.

And yet some kind of celebration is surely in order. For one thing, the original idea was such a bright one. Before the reorganization of March 1782, administration was managed — or rather mismanaged — by two geographical departments, the Northern and the Southern, in one or other of which miscellaneous affairs of state, whether domestic, foreign, or colonial, were shovelled higgledy-piggledy.

History does not relate, so far as I can make out, to whose clerical mind — or when — the blinding revelation was given that things might be better organized by distinguishing those matters which required direct administrative action from the home and colonial from those (i.e. the foreign) which needed quite different diplomatic techniques. But it was undoubtedly a flash of genius that deserves recognition even two centuries later.

Another good reason for rooting around in the dusty attic of bureaucratic history in this fashion was pointed out by Professor Michael Howard in his brilliant commemorative lecture at Chatham House yesterday. The 1782 departmental reshuffle was made possible — perhaps, in part, even prompted — by one of the worst pieces of misman-

agement ever perpetrated by a British Government, namely the loss of the North American colonies. Lord Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown five months earlier brought down Lord North's ministry and opened the way to change, even if it meant that one of the first duties of Charles James Fox, newly-minted Foreign Secretary, was to negotiate the terms of a humiliating treaty.

There are distinct consolations in contemplating this wreckage, not only as a wry example of good coming out of evil, but as a reminder of how calamitous Britain's position then appeared to be. The British past was bright and powerful; the future looked bleak and impoverished; lamentations and predictions of limitless decline filled the air. The fact that within 50 years Britain had become the superpower of the nineteenth century does not prove anything about our national future in the twenty-first century, but it puts a fresh perspective on our present discounts.

Back to my mind, however, the most interesting aspect of the anniversary is presented by the question of bureaucratic demarcation with which I began. There is an intriguing irony in the fact that we are celebrating the convenient and successful division of our administrative arrangements into internal and external affairs, at a moment when the lines between the two are becoming more and more blurred.

If one follows the preoccupations of British governments since the Foreign Office was established it is possible (by gross oversimplification) to trace a fairly straightforward pattern in three phases. In the first, which covers the whole of the nineteenth century, we see the steady rise of foreign (including, of course, imperial) concerns, in the scale of

importance until by the beginning of this century they dominated all other considerations. The Foreign, Colonial, and India Offices — and of course the attendant War Office and Admiralty — became the power centres of Whitehall; their collective needs and concerns took precedence over, and constantly distorted, all other domestic and economic considerations.

After the First World War, this process was gradually reversed. With the rise of Labour and the welfare state, the domestic imperatives became increasingly insistent until by the 1960s foreign policy could be seen as the handmaiden, even the slave, of Britain's internal needs — and particularly of social and economic difficulties.

The third (and current) phase is more balanced and more ambiguous. Britain's vulnerability to external events has steadily increased in the last 20 years and this has enhanced the importance of foreign policy. On the other hand, the interdependence of states and the interpenetration of their economies is now so great on the international scene that almost every aspect of domestic affairs is transformed by them. Interest and exchange rate policy, energy policy, agricultural policy, trade policy, inward and outward investment policy — it is hardly possible to distinguish the internal from the external ramifications of any of them.

Important consequences flow from this, as they also do from the fact that most other countries are in the same boat. One is that the coordination of British policy in the conventional fringe policy field becomes increasingly complicated. The proliferation of Cabinet committees is necessary to prevent wires getting crossed, and that in turn gives more power to the Cabinet Secretariat at the

expense of Departments. Mrs Thatcher's half-banking for a formal Prime Minister's Department has, I gather, been abandoned for the time being, but the force of circumstances is moving things steadily in that direction.

Another result is that the Foreign Office, if it wishes to keep its end up in Whitehall, is obliged to spawn experts on a large variety of subjects formerly regarded as outside its expertise, while at the same time the Treasury, in order to keep a firm control of public expenditure, has amassed experts in foreign and defence policy. All this strengthens the hold of the Civil Service in general over policy — at the expense of departmental Ministers, including Foreign Secretaries, who cannot carry everything in their heads and would kill themselves if they tried.

But in the long run it must also affect the position of the Foreign Service itself. The Central Policy Review Staff Report on Overseas Representation (written mainly by domestic-oriented advisers) recommended four years ago that the Home and Foreign Services should be amalgamated on the ground that many of their functions now overlapped. This take-over bid was premature, and was successfully shaken off, but the bidders will undoubtedly be back before many years are out, and they will not always fail.

The future of the office of Foreign Secretary itself is harder to predict. The ease of modern communications and the tendency of governments, particularly in the Third World, to be identified with individual politicians, has made Foreign Secretaries intensely peripatetic, and it is doubtful whether this has actually enhanced their importance or devalued it.

by making them into glorified ambassadors when they should be at home, making policy and fighting their corner in Cabinet.

The crucial factor in all this, naturally, is the Prime Minister. It has always been open to Prime Ministers to appoint weak Foreign Secretaries and to run their own foreign policy. Some, like Gladstone and Salisbury, did so even in the nineteenth century, just as some, like Asquith and Mrs Thatcher, have been more or less ready to do the reverse in modern times. Their own bent and the political needs of the moment will obviously continue to produce wide variations. But again, the long-run trend, here and perhaps throughout the world, seems likely to be at the expense of the existing institutions.

Because domestic politics and domestic economics are so much more visible than national politics and economics, these last are too important to be left to Foreign Offices.

There is an awkward dilemma here. Britain will need to employ diplomacy (defined in Sir Ernest Satow's celebrated words as "the application of intelligence and tact to the conduct of relations between governments") more skilfully in the next 20 years than ever before because "influence" must now do the work of power.

We have in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office a superb professional machine for executing this purpose. But the question is who is to make policy over the enormous field in which the external and internal factors merge and over which commentators, television pundits, parliamentarians and voters are now swarming.

The Foreign Office would claim to be able to fulfil this function as well, but with the best will in the world and even with an able Foreign Secretary it is hard to see how they can do it.

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A budget to come to the aid of all parties

by Frank Field, MP

The public discussion on the run-up to the Budget has the same unreal quality about it as in previous years. Almost all the talk centres on how little room there is to manoeuvre and yet, more than likely, the Chancellor will make little mention of the hundred or so tax reliefs — or tax benefits, to describe them more accurately — which exempt more than 50 per cent of the nation's personal income from tax.

Here is an issue on which MPs across parties should be able to find some agreement. A radical reform of all the tax benefits offers the chance to increase personal freedom. Tax reliefs are granted only if taxpayers spend their money in a way which the Government thinks is desirable. Reform offers the chance of cutting the rates of tax — so increasing the taxpayer's freedom of choice — while increasing expenditure on social security benefits.

Means — tested benefits build a ceiling over the heads of the poor, thereby cementing them into poverty. Others, like child benefit, act as a floor on which people can build by their own efforts without being penalized. Additional expenditure here allows claimants to spring themselves from poverty. The individual and collective gains on the freedom front should be clear to most taxpayers.

Three tax reforms are essential if increasing personal freedom is to be a main aim of government policy. The first is to allow all tax benefits at the standard rate of tax only. By itself, this change will bring in something like £750m in extra revenue.

A second reform is to put a cash ceiling on all tax benefits other than the personal allowances. How such a policy would work can be seen if we take just one of the main tax reliefs. About £2,000m is paid out as mortgage interest relief. It would be wrong to wipe out this benefit overnight, but a cash ceiling could be applied at the current level, and this sum spread over a growing number of owner-occupiers in succeeding years.

The gains from this particular reform are considerable. Had it been implemented in 1975, the additional revenue from applying a cash ceiling policy to just four tax benefits is shown in the table below. Over a five-year period the savings

would have amounted to over £3,800m and, in the last year alone, the Exchequer would have collected an additional £1,800m which illustrates just how fast the expenditure on tax benefits is growing.

A third reform must centre on redistributing income from men to women, while at the same time persuading taxpayers to spread more effectively the income earned from up to 40 years' work over the two vulnerable periods in most people's lives — when they have children and when they retire. The lead-in to this reform centres on the married man's tax allowance.

At present, married women gain a tax benefit through the working lives of their husbands, and the tax benefit is paid to their husbands. Some groups advocate the abolition of the married man's tax allowance, but I do not think this can be justified.

The peak period of working-class affluence is when

'Given the low-level of support to families with children in the past, we should not penalize those families now just because their children have reached maturity'

both parents are working and the children have grown up. Given the low level of support to families with children in the past, we should not penalize those families now just because their children have reached maturity.

I do believe it would be politically possible, however, to apply a cash ceiling to the married man's tax allowance and for the money to be channelled to households with children under five. If this "cash-

ceiling" approach had been applied to the married man's tax allowance in 1975/76, then by last year the cash payment for households with children under five would have stood at £10.50 a week. This reform would therefore initiate a steady redistribution of income from men to women, at the same time beginning the process of matching people's income to their lifetime needs.

The large increase in revenue resulting from reforming the tax-benefit welfare state should be earmarked to raise the tax threshold, to cut the rates of tax, while at the same time beginning to rebuild the welfare state so that it acts as a floor on which people can build by their own efforts.

A key benefit in remodelling the welfare state is the child-benefit scheme. The larger the injection of funds into this scheme, the greater will be the decrease in the numbers of poor families. And because child benefit is deducted from social-security payments, the larger the child benefit the greater the incentive to work is for those low wage earners with children. Similarly, a major child benefit increase will begin to redress the additional tax burden placed on family taxpayers since 1979.

A flourishing child-benefit system has other advantages. It transfers income from men to women and it increases the range of choices, and thereby the freedom, enjoyed by families. The importance of child benefit in helping to determine the type of society in which we live is therefore difficult to overstate.

But the necessary funds for it will be found only if politicians are prepared to reform the tax-benefit welfare state. For this to happen will require MPs to take a broad viewpoint than the traditional approach to the Budget which has dominated debates for the last hundred years to more.

The author is Labour MP for Birkenhead

Savings on selected tax benefits by applying a cash ceiling 1975/76	Total savings by 1980/81
Life assurance premiums	740
Mortgage interest relief	2325
Pension schemes	570
Retirement annuity relief for the self employed	190
Total	3825

How Kincora could still harm Ian Paisley

Symbols are important in Northern Ireland. As Martin Smyth, Presbyterian minister, Grandmaster of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland and official Unionist parliamentary candidate, expressed a Belfast housing estate a few days ago, he carried a crumpled Union Jack in one hand, as he shook voters' hands with the other.

The Rev William McCrae of the Free Presbyterian Church, campaigning a mile away, had an equally potent symbol. He was preceded by the head of his church and leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, the Rev Ian Paisley.

In competition for the South Belfast seat vacant by the murder of the Rev Robert Bradford, the DUP and the Official Unionists have slung clerical mud at each other across that half-forgotten gulf which divides

Ulster's unionists. Although the bickering this week reached the threat of war, not one word is about the issue which dominates many conversations away from the hustings and which could alter the shape of Protestant politics: the Kincora homosexual scandal.

The murky story, which combines sex and paramilitary violence in one topic for gossip, will continue to haunt the province's politics long after the result of the by-election is known this afternoon.

Back in the early 1970s British ministers and civil servants cherished the belief that the Official Unionist monopoly of the Protestant vote should be allowed to dismantle itself. If the idea

was to liberate usefully moderate unionists it has not worked out that way. The subsequent intense competition in intransigence between Paisley and the declining Official Unionists has steadily cut down areas of possible political agreement between the Protestant and Catholic communities.

The by-election has been billed as an index of whether the Official Unionists can stop Paisley's bandwagon, but the figures suggest that even if the Official Unionists hold on to the seat — and they probably will — it may still not check Paisley's rise. In local elections last year his party became the first non-Official Unionist group ever to exceed a 20 per cent share of the vote.

In addition to Paisley's rise, the Official Unionists' internal contradiction between wanting devolved power and to cling more tightly to Britain, their shortage of money, their leadership squabbles and their lack of flair have fed the DUP with an unrepentant new coalition of Protestant voters.

The votes in last year's council elections in South Belfast leave the parties almost level. But Smyth is a considerable figure in his own community, McCrae, although backed by an energetic paramilitary group called Tara, is now serving a four-year prison sentence for a variety of homosexual offences against boys under his care. The unanswered

questions are: were all the offences followed up, and who knew what was happening when?

Two people have said they warned Paisley in the early 1970s about McGrath's activities; Paisley has said that one of them who had evidence was not prepared to confront McGrath and that nobody mentioned to him that in 1972 McGrath was put in charge of Kincora.

Paisley has dismissed the publicity given to the allegations as Republican-inspired, and there claim and counterclaim have stale-mated. But he is said to have been shaken by the row. Even if he did not know McGrath worked at Kincora, the man who launched a Save Ulster from Sodomy cam-

paign and — in improbable alliance with the local Roman Catholic hierarchy — will now oppose the Government's intention to bring Northern Ireland's homosexuality laws into line with the rest of the country, does not appear to have pursued the allegations with great vigour. McGrath was simply banned from using a Free Presbyterian church for an Orange Order service.

If Paisley has reached the peak of his popularity, or if it were to decline, the balance of Unionist power and the chances of any initiative which Mr Prior, the Northern Ireland Secretary, might get off the ground would be changed. In standing for any possible assembly, Paisley would certainly ask for a

mandate to wreck the London-Dublin talks, and the Official Unionists would have to follow suit.

Should Paisley build successfully on his 26.5 per cent share of the vote last year and reach 30 per cent, he could stall an assembly indefinitely on that issue. The 70 per cent "weighted majority" figure in Mr Prior's scheme is designed on the assumption that he will not reach 30 per cent.

That speculative arithmetic assumes that Mr Prior will solve the other problems still standing in the way of his plans, now due to be announced in the first week of April. Most important of all, he has yet to convince the Social Democratic and Labour Party that there is anything in it for them.

George Brock

A revolutionary epic finds its way West

Collins-Harvill, the imprint which secured rights to an "anti-revolutionary" epic which terrified the Soviet authorities even more than Pasternak's great book. Vasily Grossman's *Life and Fate* was completed in 1962, and promptly impounded by officers of the KGB who seized not only the manuscript, typescripts and rough drafts, but even the typewriter ribbons and sheets of carbon paper Grossman had used. Grossman himself was not arrested, but he said that the arrest of his novel made him feel as if he had been strangled. He died 18 months later.

Only one other manuscript has been confiscated in such a way — Solzhenitsyn's *Gulag Archipelago*, which is a mine of factual historical information which might otherwise have been obliterated. Though Grossman was the first writer in any country to describe a Nazi extermination camp in detail, *Life and Fate* is a traditional, realistic, historical novel, comparable in scope to *War and Peace*.

Grossman was told before he died that there could be no hope of the novel being printed for the next two or three centuries, yet two copies of the complete text recently reached an emigre Russian man-of-letters in Paris. The acquisition of the English language rights was negotiated by Mark Bonham-Carter, a member of the publishing board

of Collins and chairman of *Index on Censorship*, the journal which has already published a dramatic extract from the book.

Lost loos

They keep moving the loos, one hapless user complained to PHS as the glittering, swirling carnival that was the official opening of the Barbican Centre got underway on Wednesday evening. Are we on level seven or eight or another puzzled?

What with the wine and the canapes, and the wine and the music, and the wine and the fireworks, and the wine and the midnight supper, such disorientation was inevitable. A pikeman dropped his pike on the head of Anthony Camden, the London Symphony Orchestra's chairman, just as he was to be presented to the Queen. The man sitting next to PHS during the Royal Shakespeare Company's pantomime fell asleep, snoring loudly.

The most bracing part of the evening was when the dinner jacketed throng met the yelping and whistling residents of the nearby flats as the Reverend Ronald Lancaster's fireworks exploded above the spire of St Giles' Cripplegate in fantastic pyrotechnical celebration.

At this moment in time PHS must accept that trade union talk has worked its way up to a ruling situation as far as the English language is concerned. Opening the Barbican Centre, the Queen said: "At the end of the day..."

THE TIMES DIARY



Christopher Driver, the editor of the Good Food Guide, has been offered by one of his principal award winners. The 1982 Guide is to be published on March 15, and its verdicts are supposed to be a closely-guarded secret until then. Yet already Ray and Paul

Henderson of Gidleigh Park at Chagford in Devon have sent out press releases announcing that theirs has been rated one of the three top restaurants and hotels in the country, joining the Connaught and the Ritz in winning all the three distinction symbols the Guide awards. "One really rather regrets having honoured such a boastful so-and-so", said Driver when told.

Tops at talking

We may not be good at much but, PHS can reveal, Britain has regained its position as the biggest talking shop in the world. Figures to be published on Monday by the Union of International Associations in Brussels will show that London hosted as many international conferences as Paris last year (292 each), but that the United Kingdom as a whole, with 545, beat France and the United States to top the international league.

Russian rumours

Blithely unaware of the rumours swirling around Moscow at the moment, President Brezhnev yesterday went to the theatre, taking half the Politburo with him. They saw a new play about Lenin, entitled "Thus We Will be Victorious" at the Moscow arts theatre. The performance was officially declared a "great success".

The Soviet leader does not often go to the theatre — ice

hockey matches are more his line of enjoyment — but this play, starring one of the country's top actors, Alexander Kalyagin, is clearly special.

For those determined to see conspiracy theories around them, there is a nice irony in the visit. The play deals with Lenin's final year of life and the question of his succession. Recently the youngest member of the Politburo, 51-year-old Mikhail Gorbachev, went along and led the applause. Last year's inference might be drawn, President Brezhnev was accompanied yesterday by Arvid Pelsbe; at 83 the oldest Politburo member.

Singular star

In the superb and youthful cast of Julian Mitchell's *Another Country* at the Queen's Theatre it is fair to single out Kenneth Branagh only because without him the play would never have reached the West End. Robert Fox, the producer, had to fight to get him, because Branagh comes to a leading role straight from the

Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. More than 100 young actors auditioned for the role of Judd, the communist public schoolboy in whom Mitchell has drawn the young idealists of the Spanish Civil War, John Cornford and Esmond Romilly.

Branagh, who swept the board of prizes at RADA, was so outstanding that Fox and director Stuart Burge successfully appealed to the London theatres' council in which managers sit with Equity representatives, that the production could not do without him, and that the usual rules about apprenticeship in the provinces had to be waived.

Branagh's drama school career sharply contrasts that of his brilliant co-star, Rupert Everett, who takes the Guy Burgess character in Mitchell's play. Everett was thrown out of the Central School of Drama after a year for being "too awkward."

Body blow

PHS is not very keen on corporal punishment, and so a letter hurt to have been the recipient of a short, sharp missive from an organization called Dove. It is the producer, had to fight to get him, because Branagh comes to a leading role straight from the



Such is the excitement in the Commons about the possible security risks posed by young American researchers that our social services correspondent, who has been reporting Parliament for more than 18 years, was yesterday twice challenged and asked to identify himself. It has never happened to her before.

The British Museum lost some of its charm yesterday. The mighty chandelier above the staircase of the Edward VII wing crashed down, sending one visitor sprawling in fright.

Hard cheese

The landlord of Egon Ronsey's English Cheese Pub of 1982 was told, just three days before receiving his award last month, that his licence would not be renewed. Now the pub, the Plough at Rusper, West Sussex, is up for sale by auction.

Peter Andrews took over the licence last May from his mother. In September he was convicted for possession of cannabis, not on the premises but at his home two miles away, and fined £40. When his licence, which expires in April, came up for renewal the police objected.

The Andrews family still hope they will be allowed to retain the pub, with Ronsey complimented on its range of real ales, beamed bar and lawn garden as well as the cheeseboard. At Horsham on Friday week they will apply for the licence to be transferred to Andrews's father, John, and the manager, Derek Welton.

Diary Quiz

Our cryptic clues to the week's events:

- 1 Who said sorry with a daftoid?
- 2 Which group of workers got 14 per cent plus perks?
- 3 Where has Prince Rajitsinjhi joined the Ku Klux Klan?
- 4 Which Welsh boyo was memorably laid by Mary Evans?
- 5 Where was another wonder of the world set off with a series of bangs?

Solutions on Monday.

PHS



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NO CREDIT IS DUE

The western response to events in Poland is still in a mess. It is now nearly three months since martial law was imposed, and nearly two months since the Nato meeting in Brussels agreed in principle on sanctions, including the suspension of commercial credits. So far these sanctions have had the effect of making life slightly more difficult for the Polish regime. For instance, about forty per cent of Polish industry is now idle for lack of western components. But there is no sign that the sanctions are biting politically. Indeed, the situation is getting worse. General Jaruzelski's visit to Moscow seems if anything to have postponed still further the lifting of martial law. The news that internment is to be offered to the West is another sign that attempts at dialogue with Solidarity are being abandoned. As Mr. Humphrey Atkins admitted in the Commons on Wednesday, there is no change of heart on the part of the Polish authorities.

What is the West to do? Polish liberals who have been sent to the West on missions of persuasion argue that western sanctions are helping the hardliners by reducing the standard of living and pushing the Polish economy into deeper dependence on Moscow. It is difficult to accept this reasoning. Western sanctions are limited and conditional. It has been made clear that they will be lifted when martial law is lifted, the internment is released, and dialogue resumed with Solidarity.

The choice therefore lies with Warsaw and Moscow. They can get the sanctions lifted any time they want by carrying out the promises made by General Jaruzelski when he imposed martial law. If they are unable or unwilling to do this it is their fault, not ours, and they will have to face the consequences.

Western interests are clear. They are to help the Polish people, western bankers and East-West relations by nudging the Polish system towards reforms which will restore prosperity to Poland, increase its ability to repay its debts, and provide the basis for normal and open relations with the West. This inevitably involves respect for human rights because the system will not operate effectively without a degree of consent from the people. The argument that a military regime can pull the economy together better than a more democratic regime is suspect. Production has dropped since December, except in the mining industries.

The West therefore has no political or economic interest in making life easier for a neo-Stalinist regime. The blunt message should be that if the Russians insist on having such a regime in Warsaw they should pay the full price for it, which means taking over the full burden of Poland's economy and paying its debts. If they do not like this, and want the West to share the burden, then they must listen to western conditions. This is not "unwarranted interference," but basic banking.

To make the western message convincing the first step is to move faster and more effectively with the sanctions agreed in Brussels. This will be difficult. The western system is based on free enterprise and free competition, so it cannot easily harness commerce to politics. There is also a natural reluctance to lose good contracts and the jobs that go with them. Nevertheless, if the West is to be taken seriously it must be prepared to make sacrifices, and there are certain things that governments can do, particularly with regard to credits.

If these moves have no effect the West should make a direct threat to declare Poland in default. Obviously, if carried out, this would create serious problems in the West. Some western banks would go bankrupt unless supported. The PSBR would be raised by the need to honour government guarantees. But the consequences for Poland would be worse because it would be reduced to trading in cash, and it cannot do without western trade. There would also be repercussions on the rest of eastern Europe. On balance, therefore, the bargaining power is with the West. It should be used.

To throw the entire Polish economic mess into the lap of the Russians would be logical, specific and very expensive for the Russians, but if they want an oppressive and inefficient regime in Poland they should take full economic as well as political responsibility.

SWORDS AND PLOUGH SHARES

Mr John Nott's announcement about increasing the reservists and providing adventure training for a few thousand unemployed youngsters is to be welcomed, as far as it goes; but it does not go very far. Last June he said that the Government was determined to give greater emphasis to the reserve forces, and this has now resulted in an increase of 16,000 men in the Territorial Army. No increase, however small, should be decided, but Mr Nott has failed to go to the heart of the question of reserve military power, and he should try again.

Britain's strategic defence policy is based on the principle of nuclear deterrence. However, since the abolition of conscription, all Governments have found it convenient to hide behind that policy as being the only defence policy we need, on the ground that the only danger we face is of a total breakdown of deterrence, rather than a partial one. Hence we only need a nuclear bomb, with a small number of volunteer armed forces, backed up by even fewer reservists.

This goes against the whole principle of reserve power, which should be based on the view that — in peacetime, or relative peacetime such as we have — one's standing force should only be allowed to contract if the reserve forces correspondingly expand. In that way the nation preserves machinery for military expansion to meet a whole range of future emergencies, not just the too narrowly defined contingency of a breakdown in nuclear deterrence. The bankruptcy of this policy was fully apparent only a few years ago when the strain of law enforcement in Northern Ireland virtually incapacitated the army for any other purpose, in spite of its continuing pretence to meet Nato and global commitments.

Mr Nott's new reservists, therefore, will provide some temporary palliative to the regular army. But, if even Northern Ireland can incapacitate us, any future emergency will reveal much more starkly how gravely the Chiefs of Staff have neglected their duty to provide Britain with appropriate machinery for expansion of the services to meet unexpected emergencies.

The proposal for adventure training is also an attractive one, but incomplete. Mr Nott said that the very low numbers leaving the armed services, and the consequential reduction in recruitment, had produced some spare capacity in the training establishments of all three services. That training capacity should not be frittered away providing canoe trips and such like. It is the seed corn of the country's future military potential. But it is more than this, since military

trade training improves the quality of those who pass through the machine in a social as well as a military sense. Social and military qualities are not necessarily incompatible. There is more to military training now than learning to kill. There is more to it even than gunnery, tactics or fieldcraft. It is noticeable that four out of every five recruits enlist because they wish to learn a trade which would be valuable to them later as civilians.

The national value of this training machine is thus not only that it trains servicemen with technical skills. Most of these skills are as relevant to industry, as they are to the military. There is much exchange of information and experience between service training establishments and their counterparts in industry, particularly in junior management and trade training. When the economy picks up we will again need more skilled manpower than exists. We should harness the military training machine to this future industrial and economic requirement, by using its spare capacity now to turn out young men and women trained in modern techniques. In peacetime there is always pressure to turn swords into ploughshares. But we should not forget the service training machine's ability to turn out swordsmen who are ploughmen too; and the better for it.

More power to the elbows of campaigning commentators, but the apparently wilful failure of Mr Fallaci to honour the patent integrity of his troubled politician angered and saddened me. The fact that I am consoled by your leading article does not help me to understand why you bought the Fallaci piece in the first place.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID P. McLAUGHLIN,
8 Northolme Road, Islington, N5.

From Mr Norman Gear
Sir, May I protest against the appalling distortion of Marxist philosophy which appears in the leader column of your paper today (February 26). You write in connection with the Polish Deputy Premier, "he speaks as a true Marxist when he utters the chilling remark that 'in politics the individual does not count'".

Anyone who has read Marx will know that throughout his life he stressed the right and the need of the individual to fulfil his unique nature within a just society. It was Marx's argument that it was the capitalist system which denied, frustrated and perverted human nature. Looking around Western Europe today, with its ever more tasteless commercialism and its millions of unemployed, who can deny that he was right?

Yours sincerely,
NORMAN GEAR,
55 Carleion Road,
Dinas Powis,
South Glamorgan.

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Yours faithfully,
KENNETH M. SPENCE,
60 Ellery Street,
Fulham, SW6,
February 25.

Case for Belvoir coalfield

From Mr Madron Seligman, MEP for West Sussex (Conservative) and others

The letter from Mr Joe Gormley (February 17) answers Mr Ronald Butt's article about the proposed development of north-east Leicestershire coalfield with a strong argument in favour of the need to exploit the UK's natural resources. However, the case for proceeding with this project is even wider than that.

The European Commission supported the development of this coalfield at the public enquiry, arguing that the European Community must maintain a substantial and economically viable coal industry to avoid still greater dependence on imported energy. A healthy coal mining industry as the Government has often said, plays a vital part in Community security as well as economic strategy.

At present the demand for coal is artificially low, due to worldwide recession. Consequently stocks are building up and people are questioning the need for additional mining capacity. This can only be a short-term view.

By the year 2000 it is calculated that European coal consumption will rise from the present 314 million tons to over 500 million tons a year, as supplies of alternative fuels, oil and gas, decline.

Great Britain's coal industry will have a key role to play in this situation, by investing in new capacity. Even so, it is estimated that Europe will still be dependent on imports of coal in the year 2000, amounting to some 240 million tons, against the present 74 million tons.

Furthermore, unless new mines are opened, skilled mine-workers will have no jobs to go to when their present mines are exhausted, and the Community can ill afford to lose such men, with their family tradition, prepared to work thousands of feet underground.

The environmental impact of deep mines on "green field" sites can be greatly reduced if precautions are taken from the beginning. While the first coal from the new north-east Leicestershire coalfield will probably not emerge before the early 1990s we must be sure that any effect on the local environment is reduced to the absolute minimum.

Yours faithfully,
MADRON SELIGMAN,
J. SCOTT-HOPKINS,
FRED CATERWOOD,
ROBERT MORELAND,
European Democratic Group,
22 St James's Square, SW1,
March 3.

Troubled Poland

From Mr D. P. McLaughlin

Sir, Two cheers for your peerless leading article, "Portrait of a party man" (February 24). Your reasoned assessment of the political difficulties faced by the Polish Deputy Premier, Mr Rakowski, offers some realism for the often over-optimistic and ill-mannered interview by Ms Fallaci which you published on the Monday and Tuesday.

The travail of Poland is too tragic a matter for the Poles, the Soviet Russian sphere of influence and the world, to be trivialized by the personality-clashing prose of irate journalists.

More power to the elbows of campaigning commentators, but the apparently wilful failure of Ms Fallaci to honour the patent integrity of his troubled politician angered and saddened me. The fact that I am consoled by your leading article does not help me to understand why you bought the Fallaci piece in the first place.

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KENNETH M. SPENCE,
60 Ellery Street,
Fulham, SW6,
February 25.

Practical benefits of national service

From Lieutenant General Sir John Cowley

Sir, Your leading article of February 27 on the subject of the abolition of national service in this country 25 years ago contains the sentence "a security rosette by the self-satisfaction of the armed forces at being once again left alone with their professionalism. The social consequences of the abolition seem also to have been ignored."

I recollect clearly a meeting held in London shortly before the final decision to abolish national service was taken. I was instructed to attend this meeting to represent the War Office view, as the Army was the service to be most affected by this decision.

A number of speakers who were professors of education, sociology and other related subjects spoke first. The main theme of their speeches was that national service was damaging to the youth of this country and, if it were abolished, school leavers would go straight to further education, or to jobs in industry or the professions without wasting eighteen months or two years of their formative life in the armed services. Your paper indeed wrote a leading article headed "Wasting time", a quote from my short speech saying that all young people maintain that doing something they do not want to do is "wasting time".

The only speech in favour of retaining national service was made by the War Office representative. I said that it had turned the regular services into training organizations for young men, and from a professional point of view this could not be considered the role for which the services had been formed, but there was no doubt that from the wider point of view it was a job in industry or the professions without wasting eighteen months or two years of their formative life in the armed services. Your paper indeed wrote a leading article headed "Wasting time", a quote from my short speech saying that all young people maintain that doing something they do not want to do is "wasting time".

When their national service was over, each man was asked the question on a slip of paper "Do you consider your period of national service?" No signature was required. Over 90 per cent answered "Yes".

The psychologists and the sociologists won the day. National service was abolished and cannot now be restarted, but 25 years later to blame the "undernourished" and "overpaid" armed forces, self-satisfied "at being once again left alone with their professionalism" is hardly fair.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN COWLEY,
Whittemole, Sandy Down,
Lymington, Hampshire,
February 28.

Human rights

From the Archbishop of the Indian Ocean

Sir, The foreign policy of the British Government with regard to human rights is now so ambivalent as to have lost all moral content. On the one hand it supports massive sanctions against both the USSR and Poland and demands an end to the Soviet Russian sphere of influence and the world, to be trivialized by the personality-clashing prose of irate journalists.

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From Mr Euan Luard

Sir, Over recent years the EEC has been seeking, through "political co-operation", to adopt common policies on certain major international issues. Should not the next effort in this kind be an attempt by the EEC to persuade the United States of the need for a negotiated settlement in El Salvador?

United States advisers are themselves now warning that the situation in El Salvador is so serious that the government forces in that country will be able to achieve a decisive victory. Yet by providing unconditional assistance and support to a government which is palpably unable to control the murderous elements acting in its name, the United States is identifying itself with political forces that are increasingly reviled by a large proportion of the population of El Salvador and alienating a substantial section of opinion in Latin America generally. It is under increasing criticism from its allies in Western Europe and elsewhere. And it is now, it seems, even losing the support of the United States electorate itself.

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60 Ellery Street,
Fulham, SW6,
February 25.

Palumbo plan for Mansion House

From Sir John Summerson, FBA

Sir, Some ten years ago I saw the plans of Mr Peter Palumbo's Mansion House project (*The Times*, February 25) when they were exhibited at the Royal Exchange. They seemed to me then to represent a successfully exciting architectural adventure which should, but obviously would not, be put in hand directly. Now these plans are being before us with long-term but wholly realistic proposals for their execution. They still seem to me to promise a beneficial and in many ways beautiful alteration of the City scene, but on every hand come warnings that they will not do.

A variety of reasons is given. 1. Brian van der Rohe is "old hat". 2. A number of "listed" buildings would be lost. 3. The monumental elevations exposed to the new square were not meant to be seen like that. 4. Open spaces conceived in built-up areas are draughty and squalid. 5. The new square is not "in character" with London. My experience of architectural change over 60 years leads me to feel some sympathy with some of these objections, but when I come to add them up I find myself with a pathetic aggregate of disconnected and even contradictory half-truths at the root of which is a deep-seated fear that, in our time, any change in an urban environment is certain to be for the worse.

Now, if the Palumbo scheme is frustrated, what happens? The listed buildings in Poultry and Queen Victoria Street will be retained, skin deep, with new insides, offering to the public a moderately interesting mixture of mid-Victorian architecture. This is all right, but at what a cost! The opportunity will have been lost of creating, in what has become a high-rise City, what I would like to call a "forum of release" from the tensions which gather so dreadfully around the Mansion House, the Royal Exchange and the Bank.

The new square would not, of course, be a "London square" in the traditional sense or anything like. It would be unique and peculiar, its success unpredictable in a town-planning enterprise. But I believe there is more to be said for it, and by people with more town-planning expertise than I possess, than has, so far, been said against it.

Yours etc.,
JOHN SUMMERSON,
1 Eton Villas, NW3,
February 28.

Arts Council chairman

From Mr Peter Plouviez

Sir, The appointment of Sir William Rees-Mogg as chairman of the Arts Council is disturbing in that it will remain vice-chairman of the BBC while carrying out his new responsibilities.

We believe that both the BBC and the Arts Council of Great Britain are bodies of immense importance to the artistic and cultural life of Britain, but that it is desirable for them to remain completely independent of each other in order to fulfil their complementary but quite distinctive functions.

Although Sir William may be admirably qualified for either of the positions in question, we do not believe that he or anyone else should hold both simultaneously.

Yours faithfully,
PETER PLOUVIEZ,
General Secretary, British Actors Equity Association,
8 Harley Street, W1.

Women's equality

From Mr George Mandel

Sir, I wish Jill Tweedie's letter about women in the SDP (February 23) had contained less abuse and more of the thoughtfulness she claims to favour.

One question that thoughtful members of the SDP might like to consider, especially if they have not made up their minds how to vote in the forthcoming ballot on the proposal at issue (that half the places on the party's National Council should be reserved for women), is what will happen if the proposal is adopted and subsequently regretted. Getting it rescinded will not be at all easy. Altering a provision of the constitution will require a two-thirds majority on the council; but what council elected under such a system is ever likely to contain such a majority?

To elect a council that is abolitionist on this issue would require far more than a two-thirds majority among SDP members of a whole — something that is unlikely to be the case with any other provision of the constitution. This built-in self-perpetuation of the proposed rule ought to be more widely understood, because it shows up the rule's fundamentally undemocratic nature so clearly.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE MANDEL,
The Old Stores,
Combe,
Oxford,
February 28.

Seats of punishment

From Professor C. P. Fitzgerald

Sir, In the article of March 3 "Few will escape a belt laws" the article concludes with the dread admonition that "the driver will be responsible for ensuring that children under 14 are belted in a front seat." With, or without, their parents' consent?

Yours faithfully,
C. P. FITZGERALD,
Seville Club,
69 Brook Street, W1,
March 3.

Page of honour

From Mr William Shawcross

Sir, If as your diarist alleges, (February 26), the enemies of Bruce Page, till now the editor of the *New Statesman*, consider him "the Pol Pot of British Journalism", then no one would want such people as friends. Far from being a force of evil and wanton destruction, Bruce Page is a brilliantly creative and original journalist who has immeasurably enriched British reporting. He has the driving force behind many of the most important investigations published over the last fifteen years. The list of young journalists whom he has encouraged is longer still. I hope he's in the business a long time yet.

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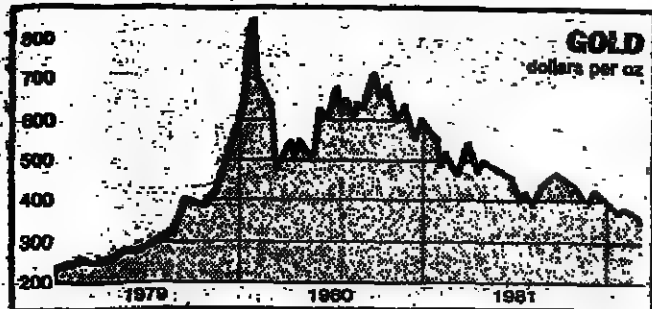
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BUSINESS NEWS

Gold fall continues



The price of gold fell below \$350 an ounce yesterday for the first time since September 1979, closing \$325.25 in London at \$344.25. This represents a loss of \$22.25 on the week, and compares with \$400 an ounce fetched at the beginning of the year. Heavy persistent selling yesterday, came with gloom over world recession and high interest rates, coupled with worries that more long-term holders of gold, notably in the Middle East, may try to sell.

SE supports dealers' rules

The Stock Exchange yesterday expressed support for the new rules controlling the activities of licensed dealers in securities. However, it is not prepared to concede that stockbrokers should be bound by similar rules. One of the main amendments to the rules for licensed dealers proposed by the Department of Trade was that clients' money must be kept in a separate bank account. The Stock Exchange insists that a similar requirement for stockbrokers is unnecessary.

Call to build warships

The Government has been urged to initiate a co-ordinated programme to boost sales of British-built warships to foreign navies. Ministers have also been asked to consider allowing British shipbuilders to build warship hulls on a speculative basis to preserve skills and maintain employment. No orders have been taken in the past eight years. The all party Industry and Trade Select Committee, said yesterday that the Corporation felt the Government was not backing the corporation's warship marketing effort sufficiently.

Weather hits beer output

Beer production in January fell 21.5 per cent, because of the bad weather, according to the Brewers' Society. December's weather hit sales leaving higher stocks than usual in the retail pipeline, with a consequent decline in January orders. Poor weather in early January compounded the effect. The underlying trend is of a 6 per cent fall with current retail sales of beer down by at least that amount.

Development of a new North Sea oil field, the 120 mile north east of Aberdeen, was announced yesterday with the announcement of a successful well by the British National Oil Corporation on block 16/21b.

MARKET SUMMARY

Gifts are Budget gamble

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 556.7 up 1.5
FT All share 321.73 up 0.24
Bourse 23,830

Interest rates continue to dominate market sentiment yesterday as both gilts and equities advanced in active trading. Government securities were the main feature, scoring rises of up to 1% in long and 5% in short as the market gambled on a further 1% per cent cut in interest rates ahead of next Tuesday's budget.

The bulls again gained the upper hand in equities, where the FT index closed 1.5 up at 556.7, having been 2.4 higher at midday. Oil remained dull, reflecting Wall Street's poor reaction to the decision by ENOC to cut the price of North Sea oil by up to 84 pence. Shell Transport slipped 4p to 339p as a line of 200,000 shares came on offer, with Ultramar losing 15p to 145p as a seller at 175,000 failed to agree on the right price.

Fleet Holdings, the Trafalgar House offshoot, its debut closing at 23p, after 24.5p, which values the company at about £14m, with about 10 million of the total 60 million share changing hands. Trafalgar House ended 4p lower at 121p.

Video group intervention has been suspended at 10p as the group prepares to make the change from rule 163 to the unlisted securities market. Mean-

COMMODITIES

Gold and platinum followed gold down. Silver spot bullion was fixed at 412.35p an ounce, a fall of 14.9p, and the lowest since 1979. Three months bullion was down by 15.55p to 426.1p an ounce.

Platinum reached its lowest point since 1978, falling by 10 to \$326.50 an ounce. No recovery is expected in either silver or platinum until gold revives.

Tin slipped again despite support by the International Tin Agreement buffer stock. Cash tin was £7,045 a tonne, £35 a tonne lower on the day, and three months tin fell 220 to £7,275. Tin for immediate delivery traded down to £8,990 in the morning. Purchases by consumers who have taken advantage of lower prices were less evident, and the broker identified with the buying group which dominated the market was a lender of forward metal.

TODAY

Housing starts and completions (January); house renovations (fourth quarter); hire purchase and other instalment credit business (January); company liquidity survey (fourth quarter).

Board meetings: Interim; Courty Pope Holdings, R P Martin, RVO Estates, Westminster and Country Properties. Final: Alliance Trust, Ault and Wiborg, Romal Tea, Williamson Tea.

while, half year figures show pre-tax profits of £437,000 on sales of £2.8m.

Planned the drying of the electrical market, rising 5p to 370p after lunch earlier in the week with brokers Williams de Brae. But it was a different story for the rail, where a line of 200,000 shares were on offer following news of a disappointing lunch with brokers Straus Turnbull. The price slipped another 10p to 433p.

Grand Metropolitan shares put on 3p to 199p after bullish comments from Sir Maxwell Joseph.

"I said in my statement some years ago that we would reap the full benefits of our earlier investments in the early 1980s", he told shareholders at the group's AGM.

"My hopes in this direction have been more than justified and I am now predicting further progress for the company in future years."

There were also sellers of 300,000 London Bank, unchanged at 79p, 250,000 Courtauld up 3p to 84p, 75,000 Standard Chartered down 2p to 87p, 150,000 GIB & Dumas down 3p to 145p, and 100,000 Imperial Continental Gas down 5p to 183p.

Burmab's bid for Croda has lapsed after Burmah refused to raise its original offer of 70p. Burmah's share with acceptance amounted to only 18.36 per cent of the ordinary shares.

Equity turnover on March 3 was £157.63m (20,293 bargains). Michael Clark

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo-Nikkei Dow Jones average 7,354.82 down 19.60
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,140.58 down 56.11

CURRENCIES

The pound maintained its resilient performance despite lower oil prices and expectations of a fall in interest rates.

LONDON CLOSE

STERLING \$1.8280 up 50 points
Index 91.0 up 0.2
DM 4.3250
Fr.Fr. 11.0450
DOLLAR Index 113.0 down 0.1
DM 2.3855 down 55 pts
GOLD \$344.25 down \$8.25

MONEY MARKETS

Period rates were slightly easier when changed. The Bank, forecasting a shortage of £450m, bought £25m of bills outright at unchanged rates and £392m of bills for repurchase by the houses on March 17 and 31.

Domestic Rates: Base rates 13%
3-month interbank 13 1/2%
13 1/4%

Euro-Currency Rates: 3-month dollar 14 1/2% - 14 1/4%
3-month DM 9 1/2% - 9 1/4%
3-month Fr. 15 1/2% - 15%

Strike may cost railways Post Office contract

The Post Office is considering switching a larger proportion of letters and parcels to road and air transport as a result of the disruption to the postal service caused by the recent series of train drivers' strikes.

This new tough stance is being adopted by PO executives in negotiations that are now taking place with British Rail over the renewal of contracts - worth £49m last year to the rail network - for the distribution of mail.

Post Office negotiators, led by Mr Alan Clinton, the

only major independent contractor, are claiming that although they were deprived of the rail service for three days a week, the cost of turning to extra road and air facilities was about the same as that charged by BR.

The only major independent contractor, the Post Office, during the 17 days of strike action was in sorting the mail. Because of the lack of overnight mail trains - the PO's travelling sorting offices - letters had to be sent out from different

centres causing dislocation in service.

As a result, only 70 per cent of first class mail was delivered the following day after posting compared with the figure of 90 per cent usually claimed by the Post Office. In consequence, the Post Office is claiming compensation from the railways of about £2m.

The Post Office has distributed the mail by train for more than 100 years and recognizes that there is no practicable alternative for most letters and parcels. During the rail strikes, it

assured postal workers' unions that all mail diverted to other means of transport would return to the trains once the dispute was settled.

However, Mr Clinton and his team are attempting to extract the most advantageous terms from BR which is aware that the loss of just 2 per cent of the postal business could be worth £1m a year in revenue.

A PO spokesman said yesterday: "The Post Office owes it to its customers to get the best possible deal."

British Rail has estimated

that its revenue losses during the six-week drivers' dispute were more than £60m and fears that up to £150m a year of freight and passenger business could be lost permanently.

Discussions on the contract renewal are taking place against a background of Post Office confidence that it will turn in a profit of £80m this year and dismays that it will be unable to meet its £220m investment plans next year because of continuing government-imposed financing constraints.

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

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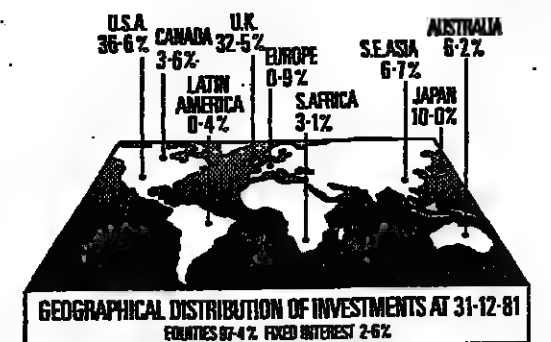
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Scottish United Investors

Summary of the year

	1981	1980
Total Assets	£133,164,898	£130,421,687
Net Assets	122,953,954	115,848,227
Net Asset Value	73.9p	69.7p
Gross Revenue	6,482,238	5,919,494
Net Revenue	2,639,463	2,509,803
Dividend	1.60p	1.53p



PRINCIPALLY INVESTED OVERSEAS

Copies of the Accounts available from: SCOTTISH UNITED INVESTORS plc, 37 RENFIELD STREET, GLASGOW G2 1JH

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane, London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-821 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82	1980/81	Company	Price	Chg	Yield	P/E	Div	Yield
125	100	Ast Brit Ind CULS	125	—	10.0	8.0	—	—
75	62	Airtrung Group	75	+1	4.7	6.5	11.8	15.8
51	33	Armitage & Rhodes	51	—	4.3	9.5	3.8	8.5
205	167	Bardon Hill	198	—	8.7	4.4	3.6	11.7
105	100	CCL 11% Conv Pref	105	+2	15.7	15.0	—	—
104	67	Deborah Services	67	—	6.0	9.0	3.3	6.3
131	97	Frank Horsell	130	—	5.4	4.9	11.7	24.1
83	39	Frederick Parker	81	—	6.4	7.9	4.1	7.9
76	46	George Blair	52	—	—	—	—	—
102	93	Ind Prof Castings	95	—	7.3	7.7	6.8	10.3
108	100	Isis Conv Pref	108	—	7.0	7.3	3.0	6.8
113	94	Jackson Group	96	—	7.0	7.3	3.0	6.8
130	106	James Burroughs	112	—	8.7	7.8	8.2	10.3
334	248	Robert Jenkins	290	+2	31.3	12.5	3.5	8.8
61	51	Scordons "A"	61	—	5.3	8.7	9.4	8.7
222	159	Taylor & Carlisle	159	—	10.7	6.7	5.1	9.5
15	10	Twinklford Ord	13%	—	—	—	—	—
80	66	Twinklford 15% UL5	78	—	15.0	13.2	—	—
44	25	Unilock Holdings	25	—	3.0	12.0	4.5	7.6
103	73	Walter Alexander	77	—	6.4	8.3	5.1	9.0
263	212	W. S. Yates	226	—	23.1	5.8	4.3	8.7

Prices now available on Prestal page 48146

BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

Wondering about Woolworth... oil cheers

Talking shop with men from the City

Woolworths has invited City analysts to come in and talk about its profits next week (Sally White writes).

This may not, on the surface, be a remarkable event. But given facts that the profits are expected to slump heavily, and that for months now the shares have been bought only because they stand at a third of the historic assets, or a quarter of the current-cost assets, it is thought that Woolworths might just have some good news to impart.

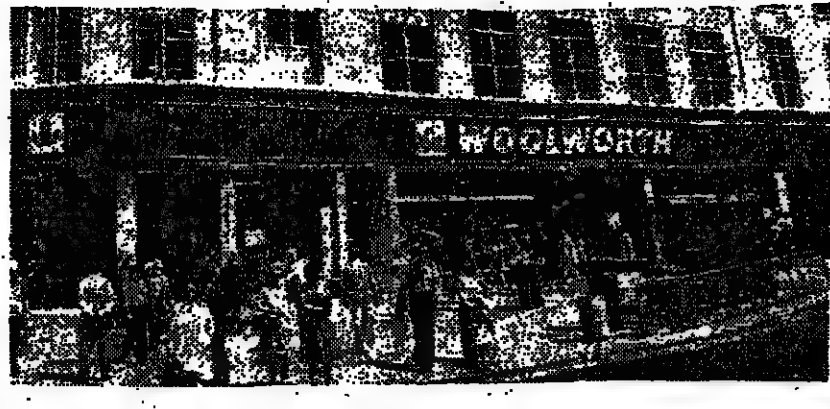
Estimates of the pretax figures, from Woolworths for the full year range from £23m to £30m. Most of the analysts are bunched around the £26m to £30m level.

At about the £28m the earnings per share are about 3.5 on a full tax basis. The yield is about 12 per cent. In spite of aggressive marketing, with cuts in prices to try to pull in customers, the long-awaited recovery in Woolworths' retail sales was still failing to appear.

Mr Geoffrey Rodgers, the chairman, has been encouraging the development of a whole host of new ideas. DIY has received the most publicity. But the "Wonder of Woolworths" promotional line has not so far materialized in hard figures.

So the trading and profit performance to be revealed by Woolworths next week is awaited with interest. The group has not been over-generous with information about itself over the past few months. There have been such worrying changes as the demoting of the credit rating of the parent group in the United States.

Most of the news that we have been following is the trail of announcements of the shops that they have been selling off, said one



Still looking for recovery in the High Street

of the analysts. "What we want to know is how much they have raised — if only to see how much is left. But most important is the retailing performance. If they have failed to meet expectations again, then we will be back to scrutinising the property portfolio."

Historic assets stand at 152p a share, and on a current-cost basis, 205p. Closing price today was 55p. Woolworths is undoubtedly a superb property portfolio. The bulk of the shops are freehold properties, and they are scattered around the most important shopping centres of the country.

There has been no sign of any private client buyers of the stock as a property speculation, than institutions have long been state bulls, and do not want to extend their risks.

The share price has been very stable recently at the mid-50s. That is a reflection of the fact that, in general, it was a disappointing year for this division of our business," he said.

The increase in profits was mainly attributable to the industrial finance side.

Components take a back seat

British Leyland's profits continue to present a tale of woe — a large reason why investment interest has turned its back on the motor component sector (Sally White writes). The best news from the industry so far this year was the forecast that the volume of cars would go from 394,000 in 1981 to 450,000 this year.

Motor component suppliers have seen some stock market buying recently — particularly Associated Engineering.

Expectations of Associated Engineering's pre-tax profits for the year to September are about £10m to £14m. But for the year after that, Hemmingson Crosthwaite are going for £17m-£18m. That is as much from cost cutting as increased demand. On that basis the earnings are selling on multiples of around just under 12 and just over 6.

Birmid Quacast recently reported good news — a 1981 profit of £225,000 to £1,635,000 — but the company said the improvement in the automotive supply side came from measures taken, not an upturn in business.

Allied to a weak pound

Allied Colloids, the Bradford-based specialist chemicals producer is one company which will welcome the drop in North Sea oil prices and any consequent weakening of sterling (Drew Johnston writes). For not only does it export four-fifths of its output, but its raw materials are also derived from oil-based products.

These factors are partly responsible for taking the shares to 186p, which is a high for the year. Allied is vulnerable to a strong sterling/dollar exchange rate, but has been making the most of the present circumstances. For the six months to October 1981, pretax profits were £4m. In the previous full year the profit was only £4.04m. (Some analysts are now forecasting profit of £9m for the year to March, on a fully-taxed rating of 17.3).

For the following year, analysts at De Zoete & Beyer, the stockbrokers are looking for a further profits improvement to about £11.5m.

Allied supplies its high technology chemical products to the mining, textiles and oil industries. Early this year it announced it had bought 70 acres of land in Suffolk, Virginia, to build a manufacturing plant. The City approved of the location because Allied already conducts a lot of its business in the United States and knows the market well.

Likely from the company's cost-cutting operation over the last few years and the expectation of higher dividends also helped the share price to rise.

The dividend could rise by between 15 and 20 per cent to an estimated 4.6p, giving a gross dividend yield of 2.6 per cent.

There is some speculation that the shares have strengthened on the possibility of a takeover bid.

In 1979 the shares were suspended after an approach from an American company, believed to have been Merck.

The latest speculation points to a possible bid from Burmah, the oil company.

INTERNATIONAL



Japan

The Japanese Government and the car industry have not decided on the ceiling for car exports to the United States in the 1982 fiscal year starting next month, according to International Trade Ministry officials in Tokyo.

A spokesman for the Japan Automobile Manufacturers association said the private industrial organization did not know when a self-restraint limit, yet to be calculated, would be announced.

Hitachi of Japan said yesterday it had developed a copper-carbon material for semiconductors that would replace expensive materials such as tungsten and molybdenum used in the silicon chip computer memory device. Four Japanese groups have been jointly awarded a \$400m (216.8m) order by Indonesia's state oil company, Pertamina, for a petrochemical plant and equipment.

CHINA

Swindlers who made huge profits by selling fake American shares have been arrested in Peking. The Workers Daily said the gang hit on the idea of selling the shares after reading that frozen United States assets in China would be released under an agreement reached in 1979. Customers were told they would receive up to \$550,000 in dividends if they bought enough shares.

AUSTRALIA

A Japanese textile company paid a world record price for a bale of wool at an Australian wool sale yesterday.

The price of 15,500 cents (£17.40) a kilo for the superfine merino fleece wool was way above the previous record of 4,600 cents set by the same company, Fujii Keori of Osaka, in 1973.

The need to hold down wage increases will slow Australia's economic growth, says the Commonwealth Banking Corporation. Australia's inflation rate is increasing, and measures to hold down wages will restrict growth for the rest of 1982 and "some time beyond," the Commonwealth forecast.

UNITED STATES

The United States should increase strategic stocks of grain and petrol to help stabilize prices and hold down inflation, according to the Brookings Institution, an independent research organization.

Orders booked by United States industry declined 1.2 per cent in January, following the December drop of 0.3 per cent. Stocks held by industry in January fell 0.4 per cent.

FRANCE

Electricity prices go up 10 per cent and gas prices up seven per cent in France today. Domestic heating oil and diesel oil go up marginally, but petrol is reduced by five centimes.

WEST GERMANY

Otto Lambsdorff, Economics Minister, is confident that West Germany's gross national product will grow a real or price adjusted 1.3 per cent in 1981. The minister said that the seasonally unadjusted jobs rate would average around 7 per cent and that the consumer price rise would be limited to 5 per cent on average.

MERCANTILE

Limited recovery

Mercantile Credit, the Barclay's Bank finance house, boosted pretax profit 37 per cent to £52m from £38m for the year to December 1981.

Mr Telford for the year was up from £76m to £111m, to give a post tax profit of £163m against £114m last time. Minorities were £1.12m against £1.16m, and dividends absorbed £146m against

£18m. Retained profits were radically down last year, from £54.9m to £16.67m.

Mr Douglas Horner, chairman, said the recovery in the recession may now be over and a limited recovery of the United Kingdom economy could be expected.

"Although the volume of our new consumer business has fallen over 1980, in general it was a disappointing year for this division of our business," he said. The increase in profits was mainly attributable to the industrial finance side.

MITCHELL COTTS

Mining operations slow down

Mitchell Cotts, which earns almost three quarters of its profits in South Africa, warned shareholders yesterday that its mining companies were beginning to feel the effect of an increasing slowdown in work.

It says predicting profits for the year to June has become difficult as a result, although, some companies could become even more restrictive.

The statement came as Gold dropped through the £300 (£193) an ounce barrier which is thought likely to produce a slowdown in mining operations in South Africa and have the knock-on effect on Cotts mining equipment operations.

Yesterday Cotts reported a 20 per cent increase in pretax profits for the six months to the end of last December at £4.3m on a turnover up 19 per cent to £190.5m.

Much of the increase came from the British transportation side, helped by the South African Bruda International transport firm.

However, attributable profits rose from £580,000 to £3.3m as a result of profits on sale-and-lease-back property deals in South Africa, and analysts are looking for full-year pretax profits of £10.5m against £9.8m last time.

That should include a 10 per cent deposit from the £160m Nigerian College contract for which financing arrangements have just been finalised, but which Cotts says is not expected to bring significant profits before next year.

The group's interest charge continues to rise, up 14 per cent to £3.1m for the half year. Mr Peter MacKenna, the finance director, declined to talk about the company's borrowings.

Cotts is paying a gross 2.142p half-time dividend against 0.937p to reduce the disparity between the two half-yearly payments.

RANSOMES

Sounder base

Ransomes Sims & Jeffries, the East Anglian agricultural machinery manufacturer, returned to profits in the second half of its financial year, but at £1.1m pretax this is less than half the £2.31m of the previous year.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	13 1/4%
Barclays	13 1/4%
CC	13 1/4%
Consolidated Crds.	13 1/4%
C. Hoare & Co.	13 1/4%
Lloyds Bank	13 1/4%
Midland Bank	13 1/4%
Nat Westminster	13 1/4%
TSB	13 1/4%
Williams & Glyn's	13 1/4%

* 7 day deposits on sums of £100,000 and over 11 1/4%, £250,000 and over 12 1/4%.

Sales for the year to January 2 slipped from £48.96m to £42.19m. Total distributions for the year are being held at 15.3p with an 11.43p final dividend.

At the half-way stage the group had lost £102,000 against a profit of £1.66m, and announced a further 275 redundancies, bringing the cut in its United Kingdom workforce over the previous 18 months to 1,300.

Mr Geoffrey Bone, chairman, said that while there had been some improvement in the second half, there were few positive indicators of significant upward trend. In some areas, such as local authority spending on grass machinery, conditions could become even more restrictive.

Farm machinery demand is expected to be better than last year, while stock levels will be reduced. Earnings per share fell from 49.6p to 16.7p, but with the maintained dividend and the chairman's cautious optimism for the current year the shares put on 3p to 181p.

RENTOKIL

Record profits

Killing pests, preserving wood and industrial hygiene gave Rentokil a record level of pretax profits, up 11 per cent to £14.2m, in the year to December.

But the group says it could have carried out more work in preserving timber but had difficulty finding one of the main products used — a by-product from copper mining.

The United Kingdom business produced a healthy growth, with profits up 10.5 per cent to £10.5m. Overall, the overseas profits rose by 7.21p.

General Mining Union Corporation Limited

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

AUDITED CONSOLIDATED RESULTS 1981

Earnings per share increased by 17%
 Dividends per share increased by 17%

	1981	1980
Group Income before Taxation	(R million)	476.1
Group Income after Taxation	(R million)	406.4
Attributable earnings	(R million)	334.7
per share	(cents)	334.7
no. of shares	(million)	401.0
Dividends	(R million)	79.8
per share	(cents)	79.8
Net Asset Value	(R million)	139.6
per share	(cents)	139.6
no. of shares	(million)	2,503.4
		2,421.1
		3,138
		3,035
		79.8
		79.8

On 11 April 1981, the 1,170,000 'A' ordinary shares, which were issued in 1980, were converted into ordinary shares and have been taken into account in calculating earnings per share for 1981.

The full results for 1981 will be dealt with in the annual report which will be issued on 31 March 1982. It is, however, expected that, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, the level of earnings for 1981 will possibly again be achieved in the current year.

4 March 1982

Copies of the full preliminary announcement may be obtained from the London Office of the Company at 30 Bly Place, London EC1N 6UA.

Notice of Redemption

International Standard Electric Corporation

9% Sinking Fund Debentures due 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of April 1, 1970 between International Standard Electric Corporation and The Chase Manhattan Bank (National Association), Trust Agreement No. 91,483,000 in aggregate principal amount of the above-captioned Debentures will be redeemed for the sinking fund on April 1, 1982 at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to April 1, 1982.

The numbers of the Debentures to be redeemed are as follows:

M	4	2043	3387	4694	5619	7044	8277	9465	10700	12837	14887	16789	18296	19750	21342	22856	23822	25333	26981	28177
6	3078	3898	4864	5828	7049	8289	9661	10710	12340	13948	15487	16961	18296	19750	21342	22856	23822	25333	26981	28177
8	3114	3448	4068	4827	5628	6306	7042	7874	10724	12371	14087	15827	17598	19398	21229	23098	25005	27058	28202	29321
10	3161	3408	4714	5568	6100	6321	6748	10723	12904	14591	16307	18057	19839	21652	23495	25368	27279	29321	30465	31609
12	348	2151	3477	4716	5627	7101	8226	10732	12897	14931	16977	18934	20911	22911	24934	26981	29058	31158	32261	33372
14	353	2198	3476	4715	5677	7110	8227	10734	12908	14943	16987	18934	20911	22911	24934	26981	29058	31158	32261	33372
16	481	2198	3508	4718	5628	7101	8226	10732	12897	14931	16977	18934	20911	22911	24934	26981	29058	31158	32261	33372
18	518	2261	3548	4735	5673	7221	8289	10754	12958	14964	17018	18934	20911	22911	24934	26981	29058	31158	32261	33372
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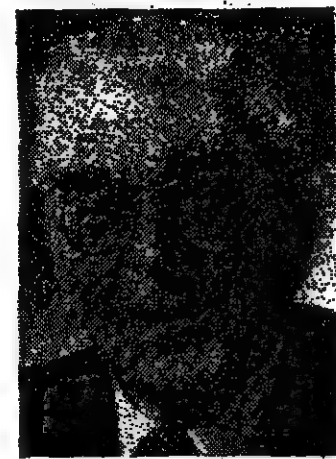
BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Lloyd has new man of steel

Forward, discreet, accountant, Mr Lewis Robertson is the new chairman of F. H. Lloyd, the steelmaker. Outwardly Lloyd has got on rather well without a Supreme, since the turbulence of last August when Mr Ronald Middleton the chairman designated, was, in the event, not asked to take office and Mr Robert Foster the former incumbent, decided to stay on after planning to resign.

Key to this strange sequence was Cooper Industries which seemed to succeed with a boardroom coup on the back of a 29 per cent shareholding, which it still has. The investment protection committee of the British Insurance Association started, however, to throw its weight about not only Lloyd's but also Cooper's, and effectively to spoil Cooper's game and with the help of shareholders, which has now discovered Robertson, 53, who tells me: "there is nothing organically wrong with Lloyd; it needs several months of calming down."



Mr Lewis Robertson

Ahaji M. T. Bature, managing director of Nigeria Airways is also a civil servant and a barrister. Surprisingly, perhaps he wants to see Nigeria Airways back in private hands. "We are in a very bad shape and slowing down all our projects," he said. "I would like to go private but I think I should still like to see the Nigerian Government have a say in the airline." It could be a private company within three years, he thinks, and once the loans are converted into equity, the airline could have capital of £200m instead of the current overdraft of £10m.



It's the new Government health warning. It says: "Non-smoking is bad for revenue."

J. R. hampered, not harassed

An eventual first visit to London this week for Dr Jacques Rouquié. He is the president of the tourist committee of Lot, the French west of Bordeaux and north of Toulouse where the foie gras comes from. He led a crowd of Lot hoteliers and restaurateurs who were to be hosts at a lunch to launch the publication in this country of the *Legis de France* hotel guide.

With the delegation was supposed to arrive, a hamper of Lot specialties, foie gras, truffles and fillet of smoked goose — but alas British Airways said, the hamper was still in Paris — or somewhere.

Luckily BA managed to find and fly over the hamper just in time for lunch — whereupon one of the guests said: "Er, I'm a vegetarian."

Dr Rouquié shrugged and said in French: "All's well that ends well," and got on with the first course, a walnut salad.

It will be fizzy drinks from vending machines round every corner soon if The Can Makers have their way. It is a trade organization just formed by the big can makers partly as a defence in the battle with glass and plastic bottles, as chairman John Preston admits. Preston, sales and marketing director of American Can (UK), yesterday launched a £100,000 scheme to persuade on a 50-50 cost basis the fillers of cans to flood Britain with fizzy drink vending machines. We have only about 1,000 at present.

Peter Walawright

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Leslie Carpenter, chief executive of the publishing and printing product area, has been appointed to the post of chief executive of Reed International from October 1, 1982. Sir Alex Jarratt will continue as chairman of Reed International until 1985.

Amersham affair — how much are the City experts really worth?

Mr Michael Richardson of N. Rothschild & Son is said to be close to the Prime Minister. It is ironic, therefore, that he should be at the centre of the storm over the Government's sale to the private sector last week of Amersham International which makes radio-active isotopes. Mr Richardson, head of corporate finance at Rothschild, is blamed on all sides for pricing Amersham too low and thereby depriving the Exchequer of £25m, or, in his critics' words, a couple of hospital wards.

The Amersham affair has damaged not only the reputation of Rothschild, but of the City generally. Predictably, Labour MPs have described the affair in terms of yet more City profiteering at the expense of the taxpayer. Those in the know make money; those outside the charmed circle lose out. Following on the heels of the privatization of British Aerospace last spring and Cable and Wireless in the autumn, the charge is that the Government has not only pursued its ideological aim of transferring public assets to the private sector, but in so doing, has made a great deal of money for its friends in the City.

But it is not only left-wing politicians and the taxpayer who have watched in anger or bewilderment as the speculators rush to make a sure-fire killing.

Industrialists, suffering the worst recession in 50 years and forced to close many factories, are scathing in private at what they regard as the City's easy money-making machine.

Amersham, offered for sale at 142p, rose to 192p within two days, giving the stage a varying degree of good fortune.

It is not just the large premiums achieved on Amersham, and the two earliest privatizations which have angered the men at the sharp end. The age-old suspicion of those who make money from money instead of things, rose up once more when it was learned that the total cost of the £71m Amersham issue was £2.5m. Broken down, Rothschild acting as merchant bank, advised by the Department of Energy, and Morgan Grenfell, acting for the company, picked up £310,000 between them. The stockbrokers and underwriters made £844,000. National Westminster, which was basically the application forms, collected £500,000, while the Government's stamp duty took £750,000.

"We live in two completely different worlds," the deputy

managing director of one of Britain's largest multi-nationals says.

"We have subsidiaries employing high powered managers engaged in the newest technology, which do not earn £310,000 a year. The bankers fee for Amersham."

"The Government, or anyone else, should not pay for had advice."

"The City should adopt the same values as the private manufacturing sector. That is to provide value for money."

This senior industrialist believes that the fees of merchant banks and stockbrokers should be published and should be in the case of takeovers, be taken off the final price paid by the bidding company.

That in the know contests between merchant banks, and companies should be wary of their motives in encouraging the bidder to pay a higher price.

Two years ago, GEC initially refused to pay Schriber Wagg a fee, estimated at £500,000, for its unsuccessful takeover of Aveyr, the weighing machine people. That bid battle lasted a year, went to the Monopolies Commission and the end of the day, GEC had to pay more than it had planned to buy Aveyr, and was then faced with a bill from the bank which forced it into that position.

Negotiations to reduce the fee dragged on for some time and set an example to other companies that they need not pay up then moan; rather, they can negotiate in the knowledge that there is no legal liability to pay the bill.

Like GEC, most large companies do not pay an annual retainer to a financial adviser. Much of the routine advice from a merchant bank or stockbroker, ranging from the presentation of annual accounts, through how to avoid an unwelcome bid to dividend policy, is in effect free. This free advice must be taken into account when the fees for a rights issue or takeover are presented.

So say the merchant bankers. But many industrialists argue that there is no excuse for the scale fees charged as a matter of "custom and habit".

Basically, merchant banks and stockbrokers charge a



The rush is on as Amersham goes up for sale

more or less standard fee for both offers for sale and rights issues. The underwriter, usually the merchant bank handling the issue, will pay the sub-underwriters, (those who guarantee to pick up any shares not taken up by the investing public) a fee totalling 1 1/2 per cent of the issue. The merchant bank itself would normally receive 1/2 per cent while the stockbrokers fee would be 1/4 per cent.

Expressed in fractions, these seem relatively small sums. But they are substantial when BP is raising £624m or the Government is seeking £224m from the public for the sale of a majority stake in Cable & Wireless and £150m from the British Aerospace offer.

Mr Tim Barker of Kleinwort Benson, who handled the BA and Cable & Wireless issues, defends the fees charged.

Kleinwort charged the Government an amount in both cases which was rather less than would be payable in a conventional issue. Mr Barker points out that this fee of 1/2 per cent was split between four banks in the case of BA and three in the Cable & Wireless offer.

Company	Merchant bank	Value of offer	Total cost
British Aerospace	Kleinwort, Benson	£150m	£3.6m
Cable & Wireless	Kleinwort, Benson	£224m	£3.9m
Amersham International	N M Rothschild, Morgan, Grenfell	£71m	£2.6m

*Includes underwriting fees plus fees payable to merchant bank, stockbroker, legal expenses and cost of prospectus.

For its fees, Kleinwort masterminded all the financial preparations. It brought together lawyers, accountants, and clearing banks and organized an independent auditors report.

While keeping Government and company happy for more than a year by allaying a multitude of fears Kleinwort, in the case of BA, had to judge the effects of the Defence Review upon the company's prospects. The Cable & Wireless offer was complicated by waiting for guarantees that licences would be granted by the authorities in Bahrain and Hong Kong, both profitable areas for the company.

Although midnight oil is burned, countless meetings held and events around the world closely watched, much of the work involved in producing the prospectus is mechanical and could be handled by a word-processor.

But where the banks and brokers say that they really earn their fees is in bearing the risks involved.

This is the crux. Judging by their initial stock market performance, BA, C & W and Amersham proved to have been under-priced and were seen to be so by investors. So there was no solid case for guaranteeing the success of the issue when there was only a minimal risk involved. This was the view taken by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Financial Secretary at the Treasury, who would have preferred a tender offer for Amersham by which investors bid their own prices for the shares.

What angers those outside the City is the feeling that merchant bankers and brokers earn all the help it needs as it picks itself off the floor, and that the banks (as well as the Chancellor) are seen to be playing their part.

That may or may not mean the introduction of the Grylls' scheme (on some variation) for net interest payments by industry, a scheme about which some banks are more enthusiastic than others. It will almost certainly mean that the banks will have to watch the balance of their personal and industrial lending as the economy recovers.

It may also mean that the monetary authorities will have to take a fresh look at the ever expanding role of the banks as the major financial intermediaries, first from the viewpoint of seeking ways to neutralize the monetary impact, and secondly from the prudential desirability of seeing the ratio of public sector assets in bank balance sheets steadily evaporating.

Second, the City should examine the question of how it is rewarded for risk. Scale fees are not broken down in offer documents and it is difficult, particularly in takeovers, for a company to know how much it will pay its advisers at the end of the day. Finally, how much should the Government or company pay for what is mainly routine work preparing the prospectus.

Such questions might best be answered by an in-depth investigation by the council for security industries. This might save the taxpayer money and the City's image.

Kevin Page

Business Editor

The banks reply to their critics

When attacked, produce a weighty document with which to hit your critics over the head — in whatever sense you choose. That, anyway, is what the clearing banks have done in reply to what they consider to be ill-founded criticisms of their role as providers of funds to United Kingdom industry.

One might, perhaps, add that the banks have taken their time in responding fully to an argument that has been rumbling on for several years now, not to mention the fact that they have not helped themselves in the past by providing so little maturity analysis of their loan books.

But some at least of the argument is of the barking the stable door after the horse has bolted variety. There is no doubt that the banks have taken their attitudes and practices quite considerably over recent years, partly in response to the increased competitive pressures within the banking system itself.

What is of key importance at the moment is that industry gets all the help it needs as it picks itself off the floor, and that the banks (as well as the Chancellor) are seen to be playing their part.

That may or may not mean the introduction of the Grylls' scheme (on some variation) for net interest payments by industry, a scheme about which some banks are more enthusiastic than others. It will almost certainly mean that the banks will have to watch the balance of their personal and industrial lending as the economy recovers.

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Kevin Page

recovery. In the States, the fall in the oil prices seems to be taken as just another sign of deepening world recession — with depression increasingly replacing recession in newspaper headlines.

As far as the stock market goes, the position is not being helped by stock sales to raise cash for margin calls on plummeting oil stocks. Meanwhile, few people are prepared to predict a floor for the gold price until something happens to mark the end of high real interest rates in America.

Zero-coupons

Japan acts

Sports in the Japanese Finance Ministry have been threatening to trim the fun for the Eurobond market's latest fad, zero-coupon bonds, ever since this sector took off in mid-January. Japanese investors have had a voracious appetite for these issues.

Against some expectations that the tax laws would be changed to reduce the attractions in such issues, a typical Japanese play has been used with local brokers now being "instructed" not to sell them to local residents. With more than \$7,000m zero-coupon issues in the last couple of months, the Japanese authorities are disturbed at the effect on their own capital market and more especially on what such inflows would do to the yen.

Rumours of such an informal ban sent the market into a spin on Wednesday as Japanese brokers, houses with big inventories swamped the market. Dealers, however, were amazed at how well the market recovered yesterday as buyers came out of the woodwork in Europe.

There is a technical explanation for this in that most zero-coupon issues were looking overvalued in any case and have now become that more attractive after this week's sharp falls. But the real reason is simply that investors still like the look of the capital gearing at a time of reducing interest rates, while with little of the maintenance costs involved in coupon clipping and so on in straight issues, zero-coupons are a easy way of handling a Eurobond portfolio. Nothing really changes in the Eurobond business.

Markets

Opposing views

We now appear to have some diametrically opposed views of the world in London and Wall Street. Over here, the slump in oil prices is seen as a sign of hope, promising lower inflation and a stimulus to

The multi-million pound connection

TECHNOLOGY: OFFICE OF THE FUTURE

By Clive Cookson

Computing and business equipment companies are engaged in a ferocious battle over what is the best way of linking the components of the automated office of the future. Computers, word processors, executive workstations and electronic files. Hanging on the answer are billions of pounds worth of sales over the next decade.

Local area network (LAN) is the general term for the technique of connecting electronic equipment so that users can exchange information and share computing resources within an office. Researchers have come up with many different LAN configurations and ways of sorting the potentially chaotic flow of data, and corporate marketing forces are lecturing bewildered customers about the relative merits of "bus" or "ring" or "star" networks, "baseband" versus "broadband" capacity, "token passing" against "collision detecting" systems — to mention just a little of the jargon involved.

The most controversial and most heavily-promoted LAN is Ethernet, originally invented by Xerox but now a joint venture with two other American corporations, Digital Equipment and Intel. Ethernet makes its British commercial debut later this month when Rank Xerox installs a small network at the Sun Life Assurance office in Bristol; it will start off with nine word processors attached to a central computer. The second British Ethernet will be a £250,000 network with 30 terminals at the Greater London Council, which should be installed by May.

In the United States, Ethernet experience dates back to the experimental network which Xerox began in 1975. Commercial sales did not begin until last year. Already 35 American companies operate Ethernet systems in their offices, and Xerox hopes to add several hundred more over the next few years.

But the early leader of the LAN pack is Arc, the network developed by Datapoint. This fast-growing Texan firm claims to have installed more than 2,000 Arcs since 1977, including 100 in Britain. This country's largest Arc system is in the London office of the Chase Manhattan Bank, with 40 workstations.

For most customers, the important difference between Arc and Ethernet is not in technology but in marketing

strategy. Xerox wants Ethernet to become the industry's standard for linking electronic equipment in an office. It has published all the network's specifications and any company can make Ethernet components without paying royalties (the only licensing fee is a nominal \$1,000 which Xerox says covers the costs of distributing the specifications).

Datapoint, in contrast, has kept Arc firmly in its own grasp as a closed, proprietary network. All the technical details are unpublished, and so far it has been licensed only to Tandem, the big American microcomputer manufacturer. A company opting for Arc commits itself to Datapoint office products, while an Ethernet customer can buy equipment from a variety of competing suppliers.

According to Mr William Lynch, technical planning manager in Xerox's office products division, 22 manufacturers have publicly declared their intention to make components and products compatible with Ethernet; the most recent company to sign up was Siemens, the West German electronics giant, last week. Already 10 firms are selling Ethernet-compatible workstations or terminals.

Technically, Ethernet and Arc are both "bus" networks, which use open-ended

coaxial cable to link their terminals. Each terminal has a special microprocessor to control the flow of information between it and the network.

But the two use different approaches to avoid the chaos and collisions that could arise if all machines on the network were free to talk to one another at any time.

Arc is a "token passing" system: an empty electronic packet, the so called token, continuously circulates up and down the cable. When one of the terminals wants to send a message, it puts the digital information into the packet (unless it is full) and when the packet reaches the machine to which it is addressed, the token is removed and the token sent on its way again.

Ethernet's operating protocol is known as CSMA/CD, which stands for carrier sense multiple access with collision detection. What that means is that everyone on the network is allowed to transmit whenever they like; if the cable is already carrying someone else's message, the machine is told to wait a short random period and keep trying again until the line is clear.

Occasionally a collision will occur because two stations begin transmitting at the same moment, both believing the network to be clear; in that case each

station detects the collision, waits for a random interval and tries to send the message again.

In practice, since Ethernet can carry up to 10 million bits of data per second (equivalent to the contents of two full-length books), any message will arrive virtually instantaneously. When Digital Equipment studied Ethernet's capacity, it found that up to 2,000 active users could be attached to a single network before waiting times became significant (more than 1,000th of a second).

Although Ethernet's opponents have raised many technical arguments against the network — which are dismissed by Xerox as "myths" — the objection taken most seriously in the business equipment industry is that Ethernet is a baseband network. This means that it has just one channel; only one stream of signals can travel along the cable.

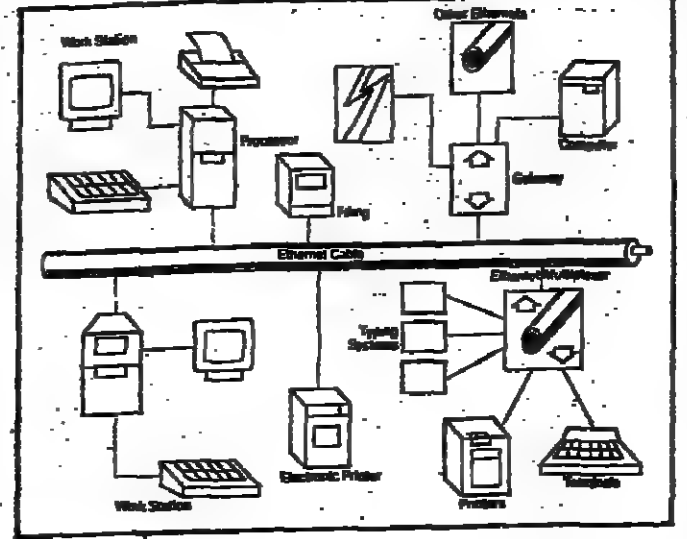
A baseband network does not have enough capacity to carry a single channel to carry voice and video communications as well as heavy volumes of computer data and electronic messages. A broadband network with cable carrying several channels — like the Wangnet being developed by Wang — is needed to integrate office telephone and videoconferencing with data communications.

Xerox and other Ethernet proponents claim that the objection is irrelevant, at least for the next few years, because it will be simpler and more cost-effective to install separate telephone and video systems rather than try to combine everything in a single network.

A broadband network is considerably more expensive than baseband. Connection costs are trebled because the complex electronics needed to sort out communications on the various channels.

Arc has also started life as a baseband network. But Mr Victor Poor, Datapoint executive vice-president for research and development, says it can easily be upgraded to broadband, unlike Ethernet.

"Everyone who is promoting local area networks says their system is compatible with broadband, except Ethernet," says Mr Poor. "I think that's the Achilles heel of the system. It is my conviction that the broadband system is the only serious candidate for standardization in the long term."



The Xerox Ethernet cable connects a wide variety of "intelligent" office machines, allowing them to work together and exchange information as a single system.

SKF

Financial statement, 1981

SKF Group income for the year ending 31 Dec 1981 was 805 million Swedish kronor (MSkr) before exchange differences. Net sales for the Group rose 8.5 per cent.

	Jan-Dec 1981	Jan-Dec 1980
Sales (MSkr)	13,570	12,512
Operating income before depreciation (MSkr)	1,719	1,847
Income before exchange differences (MSkr)	805	953
Capital expenditure (MSkr)	622	492
Average number of employees	50,452	53,026

The rolling bearing sector continued to improve, with a profit of 851 million kronor (829 MSkr in 1980). On the other hand the steel division, facing price concessions due to an over-saturated market, showed a loss of 119 million kronor as opposed to its 1980 profit of 20 million.

Prospects of developing SKF 1982 activities favourably are considered good, the degree of change also depending on when exactly the economic upturn occurs.

Dividends and capitalisation
The Board and Managing Director recommend an unchanged dividend of 7 kronor for A and B shares, and 12 kronor per C share, as well as a 75th Anniversary bonus of one krona for each A and B share. In all, 187 million kronor.

The Board will also recommend shareholders at the Annual General Meeting to raise the Company's share capital to 1350 million kronor by increasing the book value of SKF's shareholding in Krängede AB by 270 million kronor, and issuing capitalisation shares whereby shareholders will receive one new share for every four of the same kind held.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 28 May.

Aktiebolaget SKF, S-415 50 Göteborg, Sweden.

Gilts surge ahead

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 1. Dealings End, March 12. \$ Contango Day, March 15. Settlement Day, March 22.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
BELL'S

[illegible]

SPORT

FOOTBALL

Scots build an elite highway to survival

A survival plan for Scottish football has been worked out after three years of chaos. It will be discussed by the Scottish League management committee in three weeks' time. It entails increasing the number of clubs from 16 to 20, with two non-league sides being invited to join the league.

The move comes after "rumours of disintegration among leading clubs suffering a slump in attendance and rumours of a new league. It seems likely that if the plan is successful one club from the Highland League and one from the Borders could be invited to become part of the Scottish League.

Relegation would be abandoned to the premier division this season with the top six from the existing first division joining the 10 sides now forming the elite. A spokesman said that the plan had received letters from the meeting which he described as "essential to its safeguarding the existence of the game".

The proposals are designed to take effect from next season. A two-thirds majority is required to bring them to fruition. The title "Premier Division" would be scrapped and the new league numbered One, Two and Three.

Celtic's home attendance was 9,000 for their premier game against Morton on Wednesday night. Their lowest for many years. Appropriately, one of the staunchest advocates of a sweeping change is Morton's manager, director, Hal Stewart. Three weeks ago he issued a document on behalf of his club to all club pleading with them to back a change in the League format.

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Hull manager sacked by official receiver

Mike Smith, the Hull City manager, is to be sacked by the official receiver. It is unlikely that Mr Smith will receive compensation for the loss of his job, which he had been called in to deal with Hull's financial crisis.

Mr Smith was told by the receiver, Mr Martin Spencer, that the club's financial crisis was too great for him to handle. Mr Smith, a quiet, reserved man, was told that the club's financial crisis was too great for him to handle.

Mr Smith, whose five-year contract had nearly three years to run, said: "We are stunned, disappointed and angry. We don't know what to say or do. I will say my piece when it is suitable. I haven't got anything to say yet because it may be used in evidence against me. I am consulting my solicitors."

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Public give £2,500 to aid Kettering

Kettering Town, who are in debt, have had an encouraging response to their appeal for financial support from the general public. The Alliance Premier League club, in the past considered one of the best in non-league football, say they need to raise £10,000 within the next fortnight and £35,000 by the end of the season.

Two public meetings have led to the formation of five committees, who will organise the rescue operation. More than 2,500 have already been raised to help to save the club, who finished runners-up to Altrincham in the league last season and were runners-up in the FA Cup.

Kettering's case emphasizes the importance of off-the-field activities to non-league clubs; for their difficulties do not stem from low attendances or excessive wages. Despite their poor form this season, Kettering's pitch has remained around the 2,000 mark. Their annual wage bill of £50,000 is smaller than many of their rivals.

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Britons are joining in the citizen races

By Ronald Faux

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Davis Cup draw is perfect for Britain

By Rex Bellamy

Britain's already high morale received a further boost with today's draw for their first round Davis Cup tie against Italy, to be played here from tomorrow until Sunday.

When asked what he thought of the draw, Paul Hutchins, Britain's manager, grinned broadly, and responded: "I'm very happy, thank you. He had reason to be, because Christopher Mottram plays first. If he wanted to, and the angle of the sun will be less troublesome for the left-handed Richard Lewis by the time he gets on court."

At 10.30 tomorrow morning Mottram will play Adriano Panatta, whom he beat in straight sets in the quarter-finals of the 1979 tie here. Then Lewis will tackle Corrado Barazzutti.

Saturday's doubles pair can be changed up to an hour before they go on court, but it is likely that Andrew Garrett and Jonathan Smith, both fresh, will play Paolo Bertolucci and Panatta, who by that time will presumably be a little tired after a long and little despondent. At the age of 31, Panatta does not recover from tough matches as quickly as he used to. Win or lose he is likely to spend more energy against Mottram than he would against Lewis, a less adept player on shale courts.

The form suggests that Mottram will beat Panatta, but the Italian is vulnerable for Saturday's doubles against a pair who have become a confident and formidable partnership since the Italian came to Britain in last year's tie at Brighton.

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NORDIC SKIING

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SKIING

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MISS KONZETT TRIUMPHS

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WALL STREET

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OVERSEAS COMPANIES

By Ronald Faux

There is little loneliness at this time of year for long-distance skiers in Scandinavia. The competitive season reaches a climax with the Vasaloppet race over 85 kilometres at Salen in Sweden, held tomorrow, and the Birkebeiner Kross race at Lillehammer, Norway, on March 21.

Between these events, which attract mass starts many thousands strong, there is the Engadin ski marathon around a 42-kilometre course at Maloja in Switzerland. They are classed as citizen races and their popularity demonstrates the great attraction of Nordic skiing which is slowly developing a following in Britain.

John Noble, Nordic coordinator with the British Ski Council, is a widely experienced ski mountaineer and on the few British competitors to take shares in the Kitzbühel and Oberammergau in West Germany last month. "I was very delighted to come in about 20th considering it was my first attempt and there were 1,800 competitors behind me. Among them was Mike Parsons, the managing director of Karmour, the British company that specialises in retailing cross-country ski and equipment in this country."

Nordic is the oldest form of skiing. West German ski schools are keen to move away from the learning to ski on the narrow, lightweight skis used in cross-country quickly develops a natural feel for moving on skis and a better sense of balance than

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BIDS AND DEALS

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Boycott's county future is in melting pot

By Keith Macklin

Events in South Africa are casting the long and shadowy of the long-awaited final of the sub-committee which has been looking into the county's affairs.

Unavoidably, the flight to South Africa by Geoffrey Boycott and others has thrown a large new dimension into the already troubled stream. The major point of discussion will be the future, if at all, of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club of Boycott, whose contract expires in September.

There are those prepared to argue that Boycott's future with Yorkshire is totally separate from the politically explosive doings of the so-called cricketing mercenaries in South Africa. Only a handful of people in Yorkshire hold this view; for many Yorkshire supporters, particularly those of the anti-Boycott lobby, his apparent defiance of the spirit and word of the Glencagles Agreement is the very essence of the operation. The recent history of his misdemeanours and errors of judgement is a constant reminder.

The recommendation from the sub-committee is that Boycott should be allowed to leave the county on the expiry of his contract. There are several other recommendations but these pale into insignificance beside the Boycott affair which has been festering since the side of Yorkshire cricket for several seasons.

The meeting scheduled to take place at Headingley on Sunday morning, and indications are that it will be long and torrid, as a press statement from the chairman, Michael Crawford, said last night.

Since the recommendations of the sub-committee were leaked a fortnight ago, the Reform Group and other bodies have been supporting Boycott and hoping to sway sufficient members of the general committee to throw out the "let him go" proposal. One doctor on underestimates the strength of the pro-Boycott feeling, which has asserted itself

at other times of crisis: over the captaincy, alleged dressing-room revolts, slow-scoring rows with the team manager (Ray Illingworth), and, most recently, the pressure to return from his country tour.

As one disenchanted Headingley member told me at the famous Test ground, "There are those who believe Geoffrey can do no wrong. If he was alleged to have committed an act of rape, they would accuse the woman of self-defence."

It is this worship of Boycott, rivalling the adulation once given to such as Herbert Sutcliffe and Alvin Kiddle, that has led people to believe that Boycott will survive even the South African upheaval. He is still justifiably regarded as the most gifted Yorkshire batsman, the ideal man to build a sound innings and to act as a steady influence on younger batsmen.

Although critics constantly cite occasions when self-interest has been the motive, the fact remains that the welfare of the team—resulting in slowly-compensated when they are in the county—has been necessary. Boycott's achievements in statistical terms and a disarmingly great deal of sound cricketing sense.

The other recommendations to be discussed include the suggested appointment of a chief executive, the streamlining of the Yorkshire committee, and the ending of the use of certain grounds for county cricket.

There is a great deal of cynicism about these proposals, and a general feeling amongst county cricketers that the Yorkshire committee's report will get an extremely rough ride. Indeed, one man I spoke to was prepared to say that the recommendations will be dismissed as a bloc "and have been a waste of everyone's time."

The Yorkshire Cricket Supporters' Association (the Reform Group) announced yesterday that they would oppose any recommendation which there is a referendum among the members, the Press Association reports.



Autograph hunters: Taylor signs his name for a small boy, while Boycott (left) and Knott prefer to remain anonymous.

Australians to be invited

By Staff Reporters

At the Test and County Cricket Board meeting in London yesterday to debate the cricketing future of the 12 players in South Africa, it was reported in Melbourne that a team of Australian cricketers will be invited to South Africa in October to play a benefit match for the opening batsman, Barry Richards.

Four Australians, Greg Chappell, Dennis Lillee, Rodney Marsh and Jeff Thomson, will be invited to play with the West Indians Gordon Greenidge, Malcolm Marshall and Andy Roberts, who have played with Richards, for Hampshire.

Chappell, the Australian captain, who is at present on tour in New Zealand, said he would like to play but only with the

consent of the Australian Cricket Board. "If it was for Barry's testimonial, I'd like to go there and play. But I wouldn't do so without first seeking clearance from the Australian Cricket Board," he said.

The board later issued a statement saying it would neither endorse nor approve a cricket tour of South Africa and pointed out that the Australian Government had forbidden the tour.

In London, the Test and County Cricket Board's executive committee met yesterday to discuss a decision about the Test tour of the players. It is believed that the board will accept the recommendation of the BCC to ban sporting links with South Africa.

Mr. Roland Hayes, Labour MP for Doncaster, said he would like to see the ban lifted.

Glencagles Agreement

In view of the controversy over the unofficial cricket tour to South Africa, we reprint below the Glencagles Agreement, which was published in the Times after the Commonwealth Conference at Singapore.

The member countries of the Commonwealth, embracing peoples of diverse races, colours, languages and faiths, have long recognized racial prejudice and discrimination as a dangerous ailment and an unmitigated evil and are pledged to use all their efforts to foster human dignity everywhere.

At their London meeting, the Heads of Government declared that apartheid in sports, as in other fields, is an abomination and runs directly counter to the declaration of Commonwealth principles which they made at Singapore on January 22, 1971.

They were conscious that sport is an important means of developing and fostering understanding between the people, and especially between the young people, of all countries, and they were aware that, quite apart from other

factors, sporting contacts between their nationals and the nationals of countries practicing apartheid in sport tend to encourage the belief (however unwarranted) that they are prepared to condone this abhorrent policy or are less than totally committed to the principles embodied in their Singapore declaration. Regretting past misunderstandings and difficulties and recognizing that these were partly the result of inadequate intergovernmental consultations, they agreed to use all their efforts to remedy this situation in the context of the increased level of understanding now achieved.

They reaffirmed their full support for the international campaign against apartheid and welcomed the efforts of the United Nations and South Africa, while that country continues to pursue the detestable policy of apartheid. On that basis, and having regard to their common values and the forward with satisfaction to the holding of the Commonwealth Games in Singapore and the Commonwealth sports generally.

They fully acknowledged that it was for each Government to determine its own policy in this regard, and they agreed to use all their efforts to remedy this situation in the context of the increased level of understanding now achieved.

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Rain brings early end to first match

From Eric Marsden

Pretoria, March 4

Graham Good's team, playing under the banner of the South African Breweries English XI, secured a 1-0 victory over the touring team of the English XI, who were defeated by a 1-0 margin.

One of the tour organizers, Peter Cooke, said tonight, after rain had ended the match against a South African XI to an early conclusion, that the players had received the message from London and would be replying "in a private manner."

He added that the team would go on to play a second match against a South African XI to an early conclusion, that the players had received the message from London and would be replying "in a private manner."

The English bowlers hit back on the field at Bona Park this morning, taking five early wickets to cause the under-25 side to slump from 51 for one overnight to 114 for four in the morning.

There was special applause for the spin attack of Underwood, who took 3-25, and Embury, who took 2-25, but the most effective and economical of the bowlers was the fast-medium pace of the South African XI.

The touring team lost Good and Larkins quickly in their second innings, but the South African XI intervened and doomed the match to an early ending. It had been useful in providing acclimatization and a taste of the practice in time for the one-day match against a full-strength South African team at Port Elizabeth on Saturday.

In Johannesburg, the president of the South African Cricket Union, Joe Parnesky, issued an statement refusing to support the tour, which had been initiated in an attempt to polarize the white and black cricketing communities into two camps.

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Current Magic helps Abraham's reputation

From Eric Marsden

Pretoria, March 4

Current Magic, the 12-year-old bay stallion by Current Cola out of the Audre mare Phosphorescence, won the King George V Cup at the National Thoroughbred Stallion Show at the Hunters' Improvement Society at Park Padocks, Newmarket, yesterday.

Owned by Mrs. Abraham, whose stallion is now the most influential in the country, Current Magic was first exhibited here in 1978 by Graham Lloyd of Hay-on-Wye, to win the Macdonald-Buchanan Cup for the best stallion in the country.

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peace

Reid rides

Cycling

Boxing

Badminton

Tennis

Today's fixtures

For the record

Ice hockey

National basketball

Motor rallying

Great Britain mean business

Arguello's defence

Virgo loses after 101 break

Snooker

Haydock

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Britain's EEC bill set to reach £540m

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

EEC membership is likely to cost Britain some £540m in 1982, according to Treasury estimates, unless a restructuring of the community budget is agreed quickly.

This figure is the basis of the case for a final settlement of the problem of the budget's imbalance to be put to the European Council by the Prime Minister at the end of this month.

Mrs Thatcher is likely to have a double difficulty. There will be resistance to the merits of the British case, since eight member countries are not beneficiaries of the present system, with West Germany the only other net contributor. And the Treasury figures like all forecasts, are highly debatable.

Britain's net contribution in 1982 was given as £522m in a White Paper published yesterday. Gross contributions were estimated at £2,667m and receipts at £2,045m, including the 506m rebate on Britain's 1982 contributions which the Common Public Accounts Committee requires to be included in the year it is received.

The net figure was at once revised downwards by some £80m to £540m—by Treasury sources who explained that extra repayments were expected which had not been allowed for.

If the budget is not restructured, the composition formula for Britain which was agreed two years ago will apply in 1982, for the third successive year. It is likely to yield according to the Treasury's best estimate.

Another reason for scepticism in the community about the British case is the fact that Britain's deficit in 1981 has proved to be much smaller than expected.

The agreement reached in May, 1980, expected Britain to show a "loss" of about £440m in its dealings with the community. The latest Treasury estimate is between £55m and £155m.

Whitehall insists that this is for special reasons that will not recur; higher world food prices, which reduced the cost of EEC export subsidies, the unexpectedly high value of sterling last year, and Britain's unexpectedly high share of ordinary receipts from the community.

In law some women are more equal than others

From Ian Murray, Brussels, March 4

Sex discrimination against men is one of the reasons that Britain is to be taken before the European Court for failing to bring its laws in line with EEC legislation.

Along with Belgium and Italy, Britain is in the first group of countries to be prosecuted for refusing to alter its legislation on equal rights.

One of the main complaints is that Britain refuses to accept male midwives, and if the European Court were to agree, it would mean that the profession would have to be opened to men.

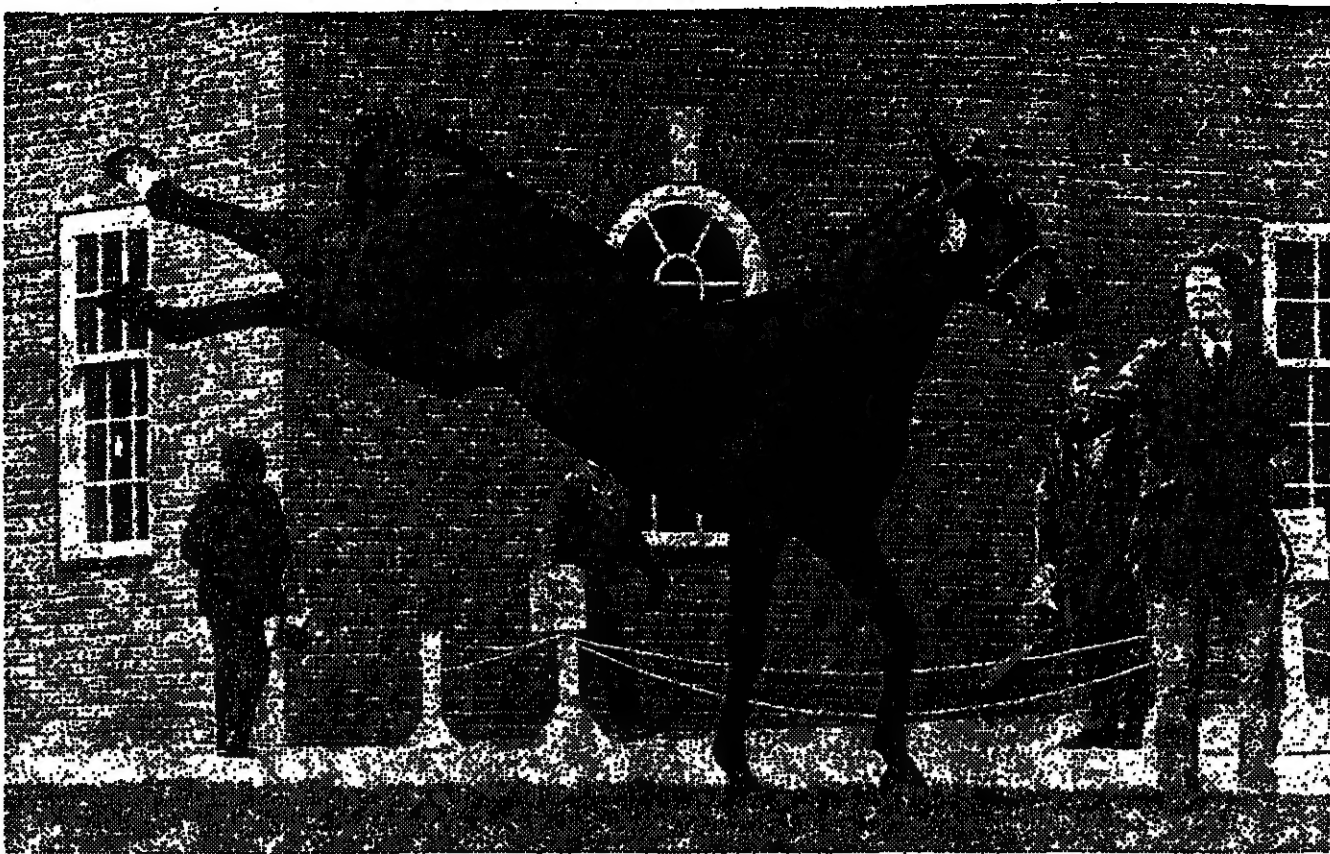
The European Commission decided to bring the case against Britain because, in a number of areas, the Sex Discrimination Act of 1975 failed to match up to the European requirements on equal treatment agreed in 1976.

Britain was told in July, 1980, that it was not complying with the EEC directive, and last October it was sent a reasoned opinion requiring a justification for its failure to comply.

The British response was a strong defence of its existing legislation at the point at issue. According to the Commission: "If anything the British position hardened so there was no alternative but to bring the prosecution."

The main point at issue is that British law does not specifically require all trade union agreements to respect the principle of equal treatment of men and women.

Kick-back for the judges



A stallion stretches its legs before entering the arena at the thoroughbred stallion show in Newmarket yesterday. The Queen presented the trophies, awarded by the judges (immediately above) of the Hunters' Improvement and National Light Horse Breeding Society. The stallion gaining most marks for "service and foaling returns" was Politico, awarded the Henry Tudor Cup. This was collected by Mrs Margot Peacock of Mickie Trafford, Chester.

Laker loses his free air travel privilege

By John Withers

London agreed to allow him to fly free of charge.

British Airways said yesterday: "There is no reason to suppose he will ask for, or will be granted, this facility again."

Sir Freddie Laker, who, as head of Laker Airways, has travelled to and from the United States free of charge, is to have his entitlement to free travel stopped by British Airways.

The decision was made after Sir Freddie returned first class from Miami on Tuesday while passengers stranded by the collapse of his airline a month ago travelled in the economy section of the same aircraft at an extra cost of £150 each.

Sir Freddie's entitlement to a free ticket is a reciprocal arrangement offered to the heads of airlines; the facility is being withdrawn because he is no longer in charge of one.

When he approached the British Airways station manager in Miami earlier this week, Sir Freddie was told to get back and forth across the Atlantic before the airline's head office in London agreed to allow him to fly free of charge.

British Airways said yesterday: "There is no reason to suppose he will ask for, or will be granted, this facility again."

Sir Freddie has also flown first class to Los Angeles from charge with Pan American since the collapse of Laker Airways. Pan America would not say yesterday whether it intended to withdraw his free travel.

British Caledonian and TWA indicated, however, that they would be taking the same line as British Airways.

British Caledonian appealed directly to the Prime Minister yesterday after the Civil Aviation Authority's refusal to grant it a "quickie" right to take over Laker's share of the British to Los Angeles route (our Transport Correspondent writes).

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Howell has been playing an away fixture too

Mr John Carlisle (Luton West, Con) managed to draw the House's attention yesterday to the suggestion that Mr Denis Howell, the Labour spokesman on sport, has been on a football tour of the Soviet Union through it all—the "all" being the cricket tour of South Africa.

Mr Carlisle said other cricketers such as Mr Nicholas Winterton (MacClelland, Con) and Mr Tony Marlow (Northampton North, Con) have been trying to introduce this priceless, immortal piece of information into the Commons uproar all week. But such are the rules of order and the haphazard way in which details get into Commons exchanges it sometimes takes days for the rest of us to grasp a point.

"Where's Denis Howell?" these useful Tory brutes have been crying to no effect for some time. Still more obscurely, Mr Winterton demanded from the sedentary position at one stage earlier in the week: "Tell us about Aston Villa." (Only now do most of us realize that Mr Howell is apparently visiting the Soviet Union with that famous football club, the Shadow Minister for Sport being a Birmingham member.)

The Labour benches have been in a moralistic trance all week ever since Mr Gerald Kaufman launched the uproar with his memorably awful phrase about cricketers "selling themselves for blood-covered kruggerands."

And all the while Mr Howell was travelling amicably in a land which practices several forms of separate development, not least that between the rulers and the rest of the population. Are the Vias getting a share of the gate? Has Mr Howell drunk so much as one pint of free vodka?

It so, there's rouse on these roubles, as Mr Kaufman would put it.

Enormously heartened by Mr Howell's own goal, the Tory backbench hard types added much approval through another classical Thatcher innuendo yesterday on the issue of the tour. The very first question was on the subject. Mr Jack Straw (Blackburn, Lab) denounced her previous "moody, mischievous" and "half-hearted" batting on the issue: a reference to her memorable overnight stand at question time last Tuesday. Did she now condemn the tour, he demanded. "Yes or no?" The Prime Minister replied that she stood by "the Gleneagles agreement." This has been her tactic throughout the bowling for herly anyone can remember what the Gleneagles agreement was. But by yesterday she had become hampered by an irritatingly unequivocal condemnation of the tour by Lord Carrington, the regime's veritable Foreign Secretary. So yesterday she went on to say she shared the opinion of Lord Carrington that "this tour is perhaps a mistake." (Actually he put it rather more strongly than that.) Mrs Thatcher almost mumbled those words.

It is clear that she hates the whole controversy. Labour started raging. The loyal Sir William Clark (Croydon South, Con) tried to change the subject. Mr Foot rose. "To return to the cricket tour," he began and rambled into a question which contained the prying phrase: "Does the Right Hon lady agree with the Foreign Secretary, the correct answer to which is very rarely." The Right Hon Gentleman cannot have been listening," she told Mr Foot, assuming a world-weary air.

"I endorsed the Foreign Secretary on this matter in my last reply," which really she had not said. Suddenly, Mr Winston Churchill (Stretford, Con) bored in with a barrage of balloons of loyalty consisting of: "May I congratulate the Prime Minister on taking the initiative among oil-producing nations to procure a sharp downward trend in oil prices? This provides not only Great Britain, but the industrialized world with the opportunity to break into what Iain Macleod called the virtuous circle in which... There was almost no end to this tremendous conversation stopper.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

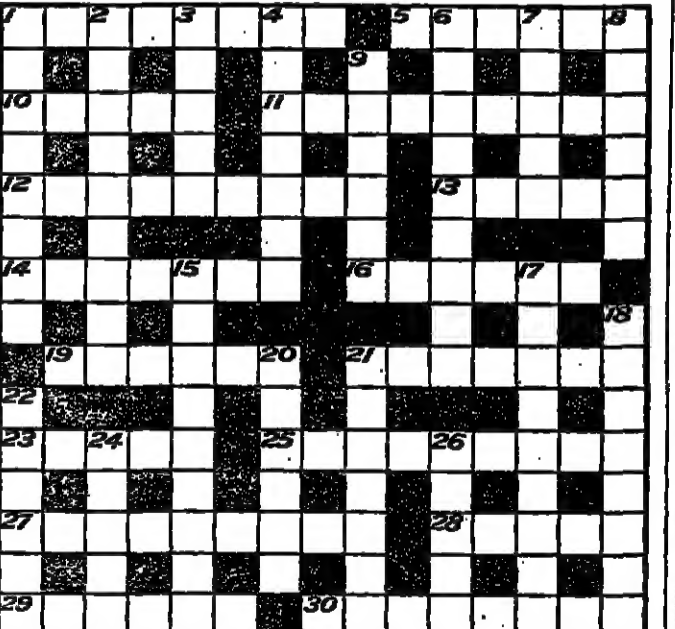
Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales attends a ceremony to commemorate the diamond jubilee of the Commonwealth Forestry Association at Westonbirt Arboretum, Gloucestershire, 3.

New exhibitions

Nanny Mulder: Mezzotints, and Sky tells by Jenny Cowen; Crawford Centre for Arts, Uxbridge, 3.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 15,772



- ACROSS**
- Do as Browning did taking writer as true wife (8).
 - Eavesdropping below zero? (6).
 - Charlie taking pub in New York (5).
 - Cleric embraces brother installed at Hermonceux? (9).
 - He goes to battle to command — should do the trick! (3,6).
 - Deposit for cottage (5).
 - Change round to sounding pompous (7).
 - A body's design to speed retirement (6).
 - Workplace for boss at Number Ten (6).
 - Appearance money her reward in the theatre? (7).
 - Return to her or someone else (5).
 - Re-dial to get old military command (5,4).
 - Rose's companion (9).
 - So many corner-pieces in the cube (5).
 - Races at all these, anyhow (6).
 - Regular correspondence between sides (8).
- DOWN**
- Big cat depicted tailless on old temple (8).
 - Nurse has go at making butter (5,4).
 - A better sort of cake (5).
 - Read by custom on first of December (7).
 - Sweet affinity of Corday and Currier (9).
- Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow**

Top 10 films

The top ten films in London:

1. Reds
2. Absence of Malice
3. Death Wish II
4. Halloween II
5. Arthur
6. Taps
7. Dragonslayer
8. Chariots of Fire/Gregory's Girl
9. Fort Apache, The Bronx
10. Body Heat

The top five in the provinces:

1. Backroads and Broomsticks
2. Condemned
3. Water Babies
4. Monty Python's Life of Brian
5. Sleeping Beauty

Compiled by Screen International

The Pound

	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells
Australia \$	\$1.75	1.77
Canada \$	\$1.75	1.77
Denmark Kr	8.75	8.85
France F	11.48	11.58
Germany DM	4.51	4.56
Hong Kong \$	11.05	11.15
Italy L	237.50	237.50
Japan ¥	145.00	145.00
Netherlands Gld	4.92	4.95
Portugal Esc	131.50	131.50
Spain Ptas	162.00	162.00
Sweden Kr	11.00	11.00
Switzerland F	3.38	3.38
USA \$	1.88	1.81

Rates for small denominations based on only, as applied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Duller only for travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

London's FT Index closed up 1.5 at 555.7.

Gardens open

TOMORROW: Sussex West: Berri Court, Yaxton, five miles sw of Arundel; three-acre garden, trees, shrubs, 2-6 pm.

SUNDAY: Berkshire: The Coach House, Horse Leas, Bradfield, seven miles w of Reading; interesting and difficult garden on north facing slope and heavy clay. Plants for sale. 2-6 pm.

Exampshire: Cheriton Cottage, Cheriton, three miles s of Alresford; two-acre garden, trees, shrubs, chalk stream. 2-6 pm.

Somerset: Clapton Court, three miles s of Crewkerne on B3165, 10 acres, unusual trees, shrubs, etc. Plants for sale. 2-5 pm; also every day except Saturdays. 10-5 pm.

Renfrewshire: Auchengrange, Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire; woodland carpeted with snowdrops; produce stall. 2-5.30 pm.

MONDAY: Gloucestershire: The Old Manor, Tynning, near Tewkesbury. Over one-acre garden, trees, shrubs, herbaceous and alpine plants. Plants for sale. Every Monday 2-6 pm for dusk. Saturday appointment (Tewkesbury 293216). No Sundays.

Food prices

With little incentive to retailers to make discounts, meat prices remain generally high and continue to show little chance from one week to the next. Pork is probably the best buy, and New Zealand lamb is on average 20-40p cheaper than English. Cheaper cuts, like shoulder of lamb and hind of pork, can be surprisingly good.

Seasonal fruit from South Africa, including apples, plums and grapes, is expensive. English apples are becoming scarce and expensive, but Conference pears can be found at their best, neither too hard nor overripe and messy.

THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS

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The papers

The Daily Mirror today compares the "lad's army," the new adventure training scheme for young people, with the "lad's army" of the 1940s, the "lad's army" of the 1940s, the "lad's army" of the 1940s.

The Government wants to recruit 4,500 men to defend 1,000 key installations for capture by Soviet assault troops. That is an average of 44 men to beat off each attack. It should be quite a fight," it writes.

In Paris, Le Monde announces that France will produce its own neutron bomb and says President Mitterrand only waits for an opportunity to announce it, a decision "which virtually has already been taken."

Commenting on the French government decision to lower petrol prices, Le Monde calls it "an electoral gadget which risks to give the death stroke to the refining industry."

Sporting fixtures

Football: See Page 19.

Racing: Newbury (2.0), Haydock Park (1.45).

Boxing: Oxford University v Cambridge University (Oxford Town Hall, 8.0).

Snooker: Yamaha Organs Tournament (Derby).

Squash: rackets: ISPA championship (Aldersley, Sheffield, 5.0).

Sport on TV

BBC2: 2.15, racing from Newbury.

ITV: 2.45, Snooker—Yamaha Organs Trophy; 11.00, Snooker—Yamaha Organs Trophy.

Auctions today

Christie's, King Street: Fine English pictures of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, 10.30.

Christie's, South Kensington: Printed books, atlases and maps, 10.30; old and modern silver, 2. Phillips, St. James's Street: Silver and plate, 11.

Sotheby's, Bond Street: Carpets, 10; English furniture, 11.

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the March draw for £10,000 Premium Bond prizes are: 7AN 620751 (winner lives in Berkshire); 47B 02163 (Norfolk); 117S 48043 (Hertfordshire); 20VT 70633 (Essex); 3YT 95018 (Leeds).

Today's anniversaries

Giovanni Tiepolo was born in Venice, 1696; Anstey Henry Layard, excavator of Nineveh, in Paris, 1817; William Henry Beveridge, in Raipur, India, 1879; Correggio died at Correggio, 1534; and Thomas Arne in London, 1778.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' motions on unemployment in Kent and on test-tube babies.

Weather

A ridge of high pressure will move steadily across Britain as a trough of low pressure advances from the W.

6 am to midnight



High tides

Location	High	Low	High	Low
London Bridge	9.24	6.1	10.22	6.1
Albrighton	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Amblecote	9.22	6.1	10.20	6.1
Bell Busby	9.22	6.1	10.20	6.1
Cannock	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Darlington	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Derby	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Dunstable	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Exeter	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Gloucester	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Harrogate	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Hull	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Leamington	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Leeds	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Leicester	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Liverpool	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Manchester	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Marlow	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Medway	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Millersham	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Northampton	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Nottingham	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Oxford	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Portsmouth	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Reading	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Sheffield	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Southampton	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Stamford	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Stratford	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Sunderland	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Torquay	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Warrington	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Widnes	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Worcester	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Wrexham	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1

Around Britain

Location	High	Low	High	Low
London Bridge	9.24	6.1	10.22	6.1
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Widnes	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Worcester	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1
Wrexham	9.21	6.1	10.19	6.1

Abroad

Location	High	Low	High	Low
London Bridge	9.24	6.1	10.22	6.1
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Amblecote	9.22	6.1	10.20	6.1
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